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Supremes Rule

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The media has mislead the public on recent Supreme Court rulings dealing with; racism, free speech, property rights, abortion, and student loan forgivenes. What do these rulings really mean for Americans and why are both political parties unhappy?

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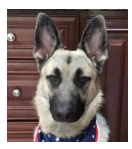

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Valley Patriot of the Month

US Army Vet. James Hajjar, Attorney and Lawrence Lion

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Lawrence's James George Hajjar, was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in the Plains neighborhood in Lawrence, a community of Lebanese, Sicilian, and Irish, a few blocks northwest of Campagnone Common, named after three Lawrence brothers, who were killed in the Normandy Campaign of World War II.

James Hajjar graduated from Central Catholic HS in the Class of 1946, the first class in a decade that was not old enough to serve in the Second World War. He then graduated from Merrimack College in their first class in 1951. Shortly thereafter, he entered Boston College Law School, intent on becoming an attorney. The US Army interrupted the pursuit of this goal, by drafting him during the Korean Conflict. With a college degree and a year of law school under his belt, he was asked to consider serving as an investigator in the US Army Investigations Division. The unit formed at the end of the war in Europe was called the US Army Counterintelligence Corps (Army CIC). James told me that his preference was to serve in the newly formed US Air Force, (the US Army Air Corp separated from the Army in 1947). His draft notice from the US Army beat his acceptance into the US Air Force by one day, arriving first and sealing his fate as a US Army Draftee.

Notable US Army CIC Veterans include a very eclectic group - novelist JD Salinger, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and roller derby promoter Jerry Seltzer. Two Americans of Japanese descent, Richard Motoso Sakakida and Arthur S. Komori are legends in the Army's CIC community, for their heroism during World War II. Komori ended his career as a Judge; Sakakida an Air Force Colonel. Most CIC Veterans feel Sakakida should have received the Medal of Honor, but Army bureaucracy and maybe even racism prevented that from happening.

After completing Basic at Fort Dix, New Jersey, Hajjar trained at Fort Holabird, Maryland as a US Army CIC investigator. His mission would be to contain the Russians and the Communists in Eastern Europe, rather than fight the Chinese and North Koreans in the mountains of Korea. After completing the Army's CIC investigator school, he was sent to Germany to stop the spread of communism in Europe. He was trained to use listening devices, pick locks, and observe behavior. Sent to post-war Europe and posted in West Germany, he spent his days observing, transporting, and even assisting in interviewing, a

HERO: PAGE 24

Court Strikes Blow Against Public Boards Demanding "Civility"

For decades, local city councils, boards of selectmen, and school committees have tried to silence criticism of their actions by instituting vague and interpretive "civility policies" whereby people are silenced at public participation whenever they try to call out the bad behavior of elected officials, or raise issues that political insiders are trying to conceal from the press.

We have seen this time and again locally by those in power who refuse to allow certain topics to be raised at public meetings.

In fact, on more than one occasion the publisher of this newspaper has been escorted out of public meetings by police for daring to raise issues at public participation that highlight the bad behavior or deceptive tactics of public boards trying to pull a fast one.

Last March, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court heard a case out of Southborough by a resident who claimed that her first amendment right of free speech was violated by the board of selectmen during a 2018 public hearing.

(Barron v. Kolenda)

The chairman of that board at the time, Daniel Kolenda, called her comments "slander," and shut down all public debate, threatening to have the woman removed.

Kolenda cited the board's vague and subjective "civility policy" which stated, "All remarks and dialogues in public meetings must be respectful and courteous, free of rude personal or slanderous remarks."

Consistent with the state and federal constitution, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court properly ruled that: "Although civility can and should be encouraged in political discourse, it cannot be required."

This is a tremendous blow against political insiders who lie or present half-truths and then shut down anyone who tries to alert the public of their misdeeds.

Too often, those who hold public office and achieve political power use policies like this to silence their critics. But it's not just abused by local boards.

The Massachusetts Board of Medicine tried this a few years ago in a case involving Valley Patriot columnist Dr. Bharani Padmanabhan who had a lawsuit against the board for illegally taking away his medical license.

When patients of the doctor tried to speak on the subject, they were instantly shut down by the board chairman who laughingly put forward the idea that because there was a lawsuit against the board, no public discussion of the issue could take place.

Of course, the law says nothing of the kind. In fact, the law states that the BOARD cannot engage in discussions on the issue, but says nothing about restricting the public from discussing it at their public meetings.

In a political environment where the public is being silenced more and more every day, we applaud the State's Supreme Court for standing on the side of free speech and against those who use trickery and self-serving "policies" that only benefit those in power - while stripping away the right of the press and the public to hear diverging points of view.

We believe this ruling rightfully restores the public's power over elected and appointed officials in our government, and we will be watching very carefully to make sure local boards in the Merrimack Valley do not run afoul of this ruling. ◊

Promoting Personal Financial Literacy for Our Students

Ryan Hamilton
STATE REP., METHUEN/HAVERHILL

Massachusetts is the pinnacle of education in the United States (if not the world) ... yet, mounting evidence continues to remind us that we still have much work to do when it comes to preparing our students for successful and secure financial futures. The Commonwealth - especially the Merrimack Valley - is renowned for its institutions of higher education, revered for its knowledge economy, and praised for the talent its schools produce. However, recent studies have highlighted the shortcomings that exist when it comes to personal finance education here in Massachusetts public schools. Financial institutions affect the lives of every citizen and financial literacy is important to every individual. The fact that these skills, which apply to 100% of residents, are only being thoroughly taught to a fraction of our students, is why I am introducing legislation this session to close the gap.

As of last year, 23 states in the nation have guaranteed that every student will receive education on personal finance topics… Massachusetts is not one of them. Unfortunately, we rank near the bottom of the pack in terms of the breadth and depth of our offerings according to the Survey of the States, evidenced by the fact that only 5.7% of Massachusetts students are ensured a standalone financial literacy course (according to Next Gen Personal Finance). To our credit, some progress has been made, following a 2018 law from the General Court that has required the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish standards for personal finance within the history and social science frameworks.

Yet, this step was just that: a "step" certainly in the right direction, but far from what our students deserve. To understand what more can be done, we need not look further than the Nation's Report Card on Financial Literacy:

State: Massachusetts

Grade: C

Needs Improvement: Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards.

Our students deserve better than a "C" especially when it comes to one of the most important skills a school can provide for its students: financial literacy. Let us live up to the claim that we are truly the best state in the nation for education and begin preparing our students with the fundamental tools they need to succeed in this dynamic and evolving world of finance.

The urgency of this need has been echoed by the Massachusetts State Treasurer, Deborah Goldberg. In several separate reports, she and her team have showcased the spotty implementation of financial literacy. Due to the absence of a comprehensive framework at the state level, individual school districts vary greatly in their provision of financial literacy education.

Among the districts in the state, roughly only 2 out of every 5 districts require a personal financial literacy elective to be offered, meaning that up to 60% of school districts are either "teaching" financial literacy in fragmented terms that often fail to amount to a strong understanding of tangible systems among students, or even worse, they simply don't offer personal finance coursework at all.

Although content is important, it is vital for us to recognize that neither scattered standards, nor electives are sufficient to ensure that our graduates - and our future workforce - are universally prepared and economically empowered.

A noteworthy issue, especially for our Gateway Cities in the Merrimack Valley, such as Methuen and Haverhill, is that "Personal financial literacy

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Public Safety, Equity, and Student Loan Debt

Francisco Paulino
STATE REP., LAWRENCE/METHUEN

As your State Representative, my primary aim is to enhance the lives of Massachusetts residents. To that end, our legislative team has been focusing on three key areas: public safety, equity, and the significant issue of student loan debt.

Starting with public safety, we've made strides to enhance the resources available to law enforcement in the City of Lawrence.

Two significant grants, totaling $270,000, have been secured. The Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program has awarded $100,000 to the Essex County District Attorney's Office. In addition, the Massachusetts State Police will receive a $170,000 Safer Communities grant, a portion of which will be used within Lawrence.

These funds, to be used during peak criminal activity periods in the summer and fall, aim to strike a balance between enforcement and prevention. Half the funds will be directed towards enforcing and suppressing urgent issues such as gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics use. The remaining half will be invested in prevention initiatives, such as intervention and diversion programs. This strategy ensures that we tackle both the symptoms and the root causes of crime, aiming to create a safer community for all our residents.

We are also devoted to championing equal pay for women. Despite the strides we've made, the gender wage gap persists and demands our undivided attention. We are committed to promoting policies that foster pay transparency, discourage discriminatory practices, and ensure fair compensation for all, regardless of gender. Economic equity is a vital facet of social justice, and we won't rest until we have bridged this gap.

In light of the Supreme Court's decision against student loan forgiveness, we are actively developing strategies to alleviate the burden of student loan debt.

We are pushing for increased state funding for public universities and colleges to make higher education more accessible. We are also exploring the possibility of fostering private-public partnerships to offset the cost of education. A third strategy under consideration is the provision of low-interest state loans. While this does not eliminate debt, it mitigates it, easing the financial pressure on graduates.

In addition, we are pushing for increased transparency from academic

institutions about education costs and financial aid options. Students and their families deserve clear, accurate information about the financial commitments they are undertaking. Alongside this, we are advocating for financial education for students, equipping them with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions about funding their education.

Lastly, I am proud to co-sponsor a bill with State Representatives Jim Hawkins and Lindsay Sabadosa.

This legislation is designed to protect intellectual freedom in our public libraries by extending library services across the state, ensuring diverse resources for all educational levels, and upholding doctrines like the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. It also seeks to increase the accessibility of library outlets, so every citizen has access to this essential public service.

Our collective dedication to these areas underscores our commitment to creating a safer, fairer, and more prosperous Massachusetts for all. As we navigate these challenging times, I remain steadfast in serving the needs of our community. Your input is vital in this journey, and I encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns as we continue to shape our future together.

Francisco Paulino State Representative Dist 16TH
Francisco.paulino@mahouse.gov ◊

Changeing Election Rules in Mid-Count

Lenny Mirra
FORMER STATE REP.

On the day we lost five votes at the Ipswich recount, cutting our lead to just four, we were also on our way to losing five more in Rowley. After the hand recount showed no change in the election results there were "spoiled" ballots that my opponent's lawyers wanted to look at.

It's important to point out that most of our recounts were run by the very capable Lauren Goldberg from KP Law. Lauren is one of the most knowledgeable people around when it comes to voting and election laws, and she runs a very organized recount where the rules and laws are very clear.

Most importantly, she makes sure that these rules are consistent for each recount in every town. One of these rules is that we are allowed to look at "spoiled" ballots but not allowed to count them towards the election.

A spoiled ballot is one that is put aside and not counted, either because a voter made a mistake on it and demanded a new ballot, or because the voting machine spit it out for being unable to read it. If a voter fills out the wrong circle in a race he's allowed to give it to an election worker and get a new ballot while the old ballot gets "spoiled" written across it in red ink. Every town had a pile of spoiled ballots and while we all looked at them, we did not count them towards the race in any other town.

In Rowley, the recount was run by Trudy Reid who was deputized into that position for the recount. During a conversation with my sister, Sandra Capo, Reid actually admitted to her that she did not like Republicans. She told Sandra that she left the Town Clerk job in North Andover because she could not stand working with the Republicans there. This may explain why she allowed five spoiled ballots to be counted, every one of them for my Democrat opponent, Kristin Kassner.

The lawyers were very shrewd to do this after a very long day, when everyone wanted to go home. They counted just these five spoiled ballots out of a much larger pile of them, and they all went to Kassner. Our team was unable to get them to look at the rest of the pile in Rowley, or the spoiled ballots in any other town.

Here is the story, as told by Sandra Capo who was at the Rowley recount:

On Wednesday, December 7 the town of Rowley had their recount at the Town Hall. When I first arrived, I introduced myself as the candidate's representative to the administrators. Kassner had one of her representatives there as well, walking around the tables inside of the taped off area, in order to observe the recounting of ballots. This was standard at the other recounts.

As soon as the recount began, I was pulled aside by the Town Counsel, and I was told I could not be on the floor because only the actual candidate was allowed in that area and Lenny chose not to be present. They wanted to know where he was, why wasn't he at his own recount, I told them he was at the Ipswich recount which was going on simultaneously.

I explained that we sent the town prior written notice from our team about my representation, and I believed that I was allowed to walk around and make sure things were handled fairly for my candidate.

They insisted I could not be there and asked me to leave the area immediately, so I politely asked them again to please research their emails and the rules. I had to show them the notice and the list of our volunteers and how my name was highlighted. The Town Counsel googled the rules and eventually they agreed to allow me access to the floor.

Kassner's representative was never questioned or asked to leave the area.

The individual in charge of the Rowley recount was a woman by the name of Trudy Reid who, according to her volunteer sticker, is currently a Town Clerk for another Massachusetts town. While the recount was in process, she was standing to the side of the room when I went over to thank her for volunteering her time to participate in the recount this week. I recognized that she was at a counter in Georgetown on Monday and a counter in Newbury on Tuesday.

We started talking and she stated that she had been a town clerk for many years and had moved around to different towns. At one point she said she left a higher paying job as the Town Clerk in North Andover for a much lower paying job in a different town because she "couldn't stand all the Republicans in that town." To be clear, she was the lead for this recount in Rowley, the very person who was responsible for making sure everything was being handled fairly.

In the past, I have volunteered to work many elections for my own town of West Newbury, and I learned from being an election day volunteer that you cannot show any bias or discriminate towards any candidate while working the polls.

It was alarming to hear and a sense of foreboding settled within me.

Trudy Reid also complained that mail in ballots were a nightmare, that no town was given any instruction or leadership from the Secretary of State's office regarding the process on how to handle all the new laws regarding mail in ballots. She repeated it several times during the day, and that citizens never bothered to volunteer on election day, that town clerks were left to figure things out themselves and they were not always sure about how to handle all the new mail in ballots pouring in at election time.

As the day wore on, after all the ballots were reviewed, there was no change in the count for either candidate. The ballot machines worked! Volunteers from both sides were packing up and everyone was getting ready to leave.

MIRRA: PAGE 16

Addressing Inequities in College Admissions

Pavel Payano
STATE SENATOR, 1ST ESSEX DISTRICT

For nearly a century, legacy preferences have played a significant role in American college and university admissions, granting preferential treatment to the children of alumni. These policies were established in the 1920s, coinciding with an influx of Jewish applicants to top schools.

However, legacy preferences have been widely criticized as anti-meritocratic, inhibiting social mobility and perpetuating a de facto class system. Moreover, donor preference, exemplified by the Varsity Blues scandal, further exacerbates inequities in college admissions.

This article examines the history and flaws of legacy preferences, highlights the implications of donor preference, explores the impact of early decision programs, and what is being done so that working class families of this district are given a fair opportunity in the admission process.

Legacy Preferences: An Engine of Inequity

Legacy preferences were initially introduced in the 1920s to limit the increasing numbers of Jewish and Catholic students gaining admission to prestigious universities. At the time, elite institutions sought to maintain a predominantly Protestant student body and used legacy preferences to achieve that goal. Over time, these preferences became institutionalized and were justified as a means of fostering a sense of tradition, loyalty, and community among alumni.

One of the main criticisms of legacy preferences is their conflict with one of our core American values, the principle of meritocracy.

By giving preferential treatment to applicants based on family connections rather than individual accomplishments, these policies undermine the notion that college admissions should be based on academic achievement, personal qualities, and potential.

This can create a system where students from privileged backgrounds have an unfair advantage over equally or more deserving candidates from less privileged backgrounds.

Legacy preferences have been shown to disproportionately benefit affluent students. Research has indicated that legacy applicants are more likely to be affluent and come from highly educated families.

This perpetuates socioeconomic disparities in higher education by favoring those who are already privileged. In contrast, students from low-income backgrounds or/and underrepresented minority groups face greater barriers to admission, exacerbating existing inequalities.

Legacy preferences can hinder social mobility by entrenching advantages for certain groups across generations. When admissions decisions are influenced by legacy status, it becomes more difficult for talented individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to break the cycle of poverty and access the opportunities that higher education can provide.

This perpetuates an elite class of students who benefit from family connections rather than personal achievements.

Donor Preference and the Varsity Blues Scandal

The Varsity Blues scandal, which came to light in 2019, exposed a criminal conspiracy to influence undergraduate admissions decisions at several top American universities.

The scandal revealed how wealthy parents paid substantial sums to fraudulently inflate entrance exam scores and bribe coaches to secure admission for their children. This scandal shed light on the extent to which donor preference can distort the admissions process, favoring affluent families over more deserving students.

Donor preference perpetuates inequality by giving preferential treatment to students who may not meet the institution's academic standards. It puts students who don't

have financial means or personal connections at a disadvantage. No matter how talented or accomplished they are, they may find themselves competing against applicants who have an unfair edge solely due to their family's financial status or connections. This can breed frustration, disillusionment, and a sense of inequality among aspiring students. It also raises questions about

PAYANO: PAGE 21

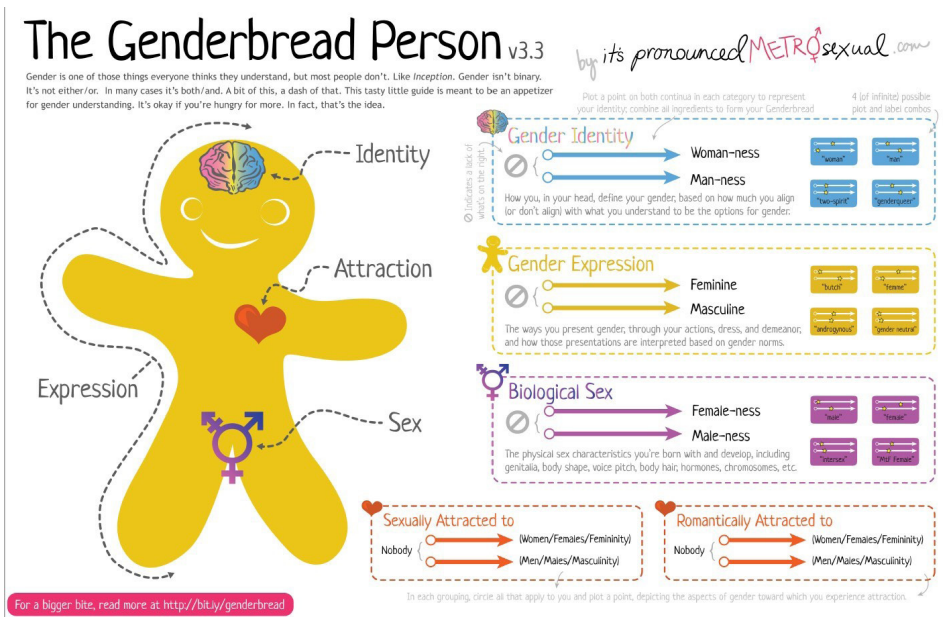
Governor Healey Proposes Teachiing 3rd Graders About Transgenders

MASS FAMILY INSTITUTE
Special to The Valley Patriot

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey's administration wants 3rd graders to learn that they can change their gender. But teaching gender ideology to students as young as 8 years old is just one of the many concerning learning objectives included in the newly released draft of a proposed health education framework.

The updated Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework was announced by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and DESE Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley last week. The Framework is not a curriculum; it is a guideline for school districts to use when choosing a program to teach health, including sex education.

Learning goals elaborated on in the draft Framework outline sex ed lessons beginning as early as preschool and continuing through 12th grade. Shockingly, Healey lauded the proposed Framework in a press release issued by her office, stating, "As a proud daughter of a school nurse and health sex education teacher, I believe strongly that all students deserve inclusive, medically accurate, and age-appropriate health guidelines." She continued, "All of our students benefit when they learn from up-to-date, evidence-based


The Genderbread Person v3.3
by its pronouncedMETROsexual.com
Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like Inception. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for gender understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more. In fact, that's the idea.
Identity
Attraction
Expression
Sex
Gender Identity
Woman-ness
Man-ness
How you, in your head, define your gender, based on how much you align (or don't align) with what you understand to be the options for gender.
Gender Expression
Feminine
Masculine
The ways you present gender, through your actions, dress, and demeanor, and how those presentations are interpreted based on gender norms.
Biological Sex
Female-ness
Male-ness
The physical sex characteristics you're born with and develop, including genitalia, body shape, voice pitch, body hair, hormones, chromosomes, etc.
Sexually Attracted to
Romantically Attracted to
Nobody
(Women/Females/Femininity)
(Men/Males/Masculinity)
For a bigger bite, read more at http://bit.ly/genderbread

material grounded in science. These new guidelines will empower students with the skills they need to build healthy lives in school and beyond."

However, many of the so-called "medically accurate" and "age appropriate" learning objectives Healey says will empower students are highly disturbing, especially those for the youngest of children. Here are some of the topics that will be covered under the guidelines:

- Students in grades preschool-2 will discuss their genitalia.
- Students in grades 3-5 will learn they can change genders.
- Students in grades 6-8 will analyze their readiness for sexual activity.
- Students in grades 9-12 will consider the "benefits" of sexual behavior.

Michael King, MFI's Director of Community Alliances briefly spoke this morning at a BESE meeting where the proposed Framework was being discussed. Listen to him share examples of explicit sex-ed curriculum content in alignment with the proposed learning standards:

As evidenced in the curricula examples Michael presented to the board, the sex ed learning guidelines endorse a graphic sex education model called Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). CSE does not refer to sex education programs in general, but rather to a specific form of graphic sexuality education that falsely claims to be evidence-based, age-appropriate, and medically accurate. CSE is designed to change the sexual and gender norms of society, promote high-risk sexual behaviors, and encourage even the youngest of children to experiment sexually.

The foundational philosophy of CSE programs is that children are sexual from birth and have the right to sexual pleasure. In fact, this belief is overtly stated in the name of one CSE curriculum already in use in multiple MA school districts, Rights, Respect, and Responsibility (3Rs) by Advocates for Youth (AfY). A representative of AfY was a content advisor for the new MA Framework.

The content included in the 3Rs is highly objectionable - so objectionable, in fact, that when the Worcester school committee voted to implement the 3Rs beginning in kindergarten in 2021, outraged parents, helped by MF, launched the largest opt-out of sex ed movement in the history of the state with 1,000s of students being removed from sex ed classes by their parents. To view the kind of content included in the 3Rs

EDUCATION: PAGE 10

A Youth Center and a New Business in Methuen

Estela Reyes
STATE REP., LAWRENCE/METHUEN

I want to start off this month by wishing the absolute best to all of the hardworking high school and college graduates in Lawrence and Methuen who received their diplomas this June.

I am so inspired when I see the accomplishments of our young people and hear the excitement in their voices about opportunities in the future.

Last month, I was happy to hold a neighborhood meeting with residents of Arnold St. in Methuen with the Methuen Police Department and specifically Chief McNamara to address multiple public safety concerns in the neighborhood, including pavement damage from gas line work, branches dangerously close to power lines, and access to emergency services.

I look forward to coordinating with city officials and neighborhood residents to assist the corrective process as much as possible.

This is truly my favorite part of my job as your Methuen State Representative. While many in government service see working with the public as a mandatory chore, it really is the one thing that energizes me to serve the public better.

It is one thing to go out into the community and speak at a microphone or make a speech, but it is far more important to me to listen to what you have to say about the issues affecting our community.

I am also working with the Methuen Superintendent of Schools Kwong, and the delegation on the establishment of a Methuen Youth Center.

This is something that former rep. and senator (now State Auditor) Diana DiZoglio has worked on for years and I applaud Auditor DiZoglio for getting this idea off the ground.

Because of her efforts, this process is in its early stages, but I am working very hard with local and state officials to make this a reality for the people of Methuen.

I look forward to moving this project forward in what will be a very strong partnership with the community to help the young people of Methuen.

But we can't do it alone. We need the help of local residents, businesses, and non-profits to make this happen. So, I hope you will reach out to me and let me know your thoughts and ideas on how we can create a youth center that will service the young people of Methuen.

Lastly, I was very pleased last month to attend the grand opening of Pho City in Methuen at the Loop with several business partners.

In an economy where many businesses are struggling or going out

of business, it is always good to see new businesses opening and providing needed goods and services to the public.

The owners of Pho City also own Methuen Nails & Lash as well as the Gong Cha next door. I want to encourage all my Valley Patriot readers to come down to Pho City and check them out! The more we patronize local businesses like this, the stronger our local economy gets, and the better our lives become in the Merrimack Valley.

Please feel free to email my legislative aid Tom Baranowski at thomas.baranowski@mahouse.gov if you have any questions or concerns. ◊

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Weather 101 with Al Kaprielian

1st Full Month of Summer

Welcome to July and the first full month of the summer season. July is known as the hottest month of the year. This occurs a month after the summer solstice which occurred on June 21st. We will see if this July proves to be the hottest month of the year. Now that we are past the summer solstice the days will be getting shorter.

The sunrises will continue to get later and the sunsets earlier. As we go through the month of July the sun angle will be getting lower especially towards the end of the month. Also, as we go through the month of July the ocean temperature will be getting warmer. The ocean temperature is the warmest in August into the first half of September.

Recapping June it was quite different from May. We had a lot of sunny days in May. This was not the case in June as it was a cloudy, cool, and wet month. The temperatures for Boston averaged below normal for the month of June. The last time temperatures averaged below normal for Boston was in January of 2020.

Boston did not reach 90 degrees this year in the month of June.

Why such a cool month? The reason has to do with the position of the jet stream. For a lot

of the days in June the jet stream tracked to our south putting our region on the north (cool) side of the jet stream. This is quite unusual for June. What was responsible for the jet stream tracking to our south? The culprit was an unusually strong HIGH PRESHA! system in the upper levels of the atmosphere located over the North Atlantic Ocean. The upper-level high pressure in this location remained here for quite a while in June.

The upper-level high pressure acted like a block (picture a traffic jam on the highway). With this upper-level high acting as a block it prevented the jet stream from flattening out and retreating up into Canada. As a result of this block the cooler than normal temperatures along with the wet weather went down to the Mid-Atlantic region and even the southeast US.

In contrast very hot weather occurred over the Central Western and Southwest US. Temperatures well over 100 degrees occurred in places like Phoenix Arizona, a good portion of Texas and the Gulf coastal states. Triple digit temperatures can be dangerous if precautions are not taken. This also applies to our weather here in

New England should we see temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher this summer.

A review of hot weather tips are as follows: drink plenty of water and stay hydrated, if working outside take frequent water breaks and get in a shaded area. Wear shorts and a tee shirt. Try to wear light color clothing because light colors absorb less heat from the sun. Refrain from strenuous outdoor activities like jogging. Perform these activities early in the day before the sun rises or late in the day after the sun sets. If at the beach do not get too much sun. Sitting under an umbrella can stop you from getting too much sun.

Now that we are in the summer season this is the time of year when thunderstorms can occur more frequently. Remember if you are outside in open areas, for example the beach, baseball field, tennis court, and golf courses and you hear thunder you want to seek shelter immediately and get inside a building and stay away from windows. When you hear thunder, this means lightning is close by and can strike you if you do not follow the precautions. If a severe thunderstorm causes the power to go out make sure you stay away from downed power lines. Also, during a thunderstorm stay away from trees.

If you are under a tree and the lightning hits the top of the tree it can travel down the tree and strike you. If you lose power and run your generator, make sure it is out in your driveway and well away from the house and garage. Will the weather in July be hotter and less wet than June?

Will we see any heat waves in July - three or more consecutive days of 90 degrees or higher?

Stay tuned to next month's article for these answers. In the meantime, enjoy summer and stay safe! ◊

Indivisible

Philippe Thibault
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

"All politics is local" is most strongly associated with former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill. There would still be national issues that would spark conversation at the local coffee shop and diner. These were discussions between friends and colleagues that may not agree politically but were bound by a sense of community and friendship. What happened? Politics is so divisive these days and it is not only on an academic level of disagreement. It is visceral.

Nationally, the major political parties are all jockeying for position with their brand of "gotcha" campaigning. I am not so naive to think this division has never existed before in national politics.

There are stories in history books relating tales of rumor mills that one or another politician was consorting with the devil. I even heard of the Lyndon Johnson campaign looking to spread a rumor about an opponent practicing bestiality. And when a staffer confronted Johnson about the validity of the claim, he responded, "I know it is not true. I just want to hear him (opponent) deny it." I cannot verify the validity of that incident.

Dracut has a reputation of politics as "blood sport." This is a claim that I often refute. I wish it were just politics. Politics by my definition would be that disagreements would be hard fought for by their advocates of all sides and a compromise reached.

Oddly when both sides are unhappy with a decision, the best outcome is crafted. Politics would have these combatants remaining respectful of each other and at times enjoying each other's company. Even socializing with one another and taking interest in personal activities and family. In Dracut it is never politics, it is personal. I have run for office previously and unsuccessfully.

I am reminded of that at every turn by Brian Genest. You would have to ask him what objection to my participation in local government is. Strangely I have never seen his participation locally. While he participates in the Dracut Republican Town Committee, that is an extension of party politics on the national level. At best Brian Genest plays the role of a contrarian Monday morning quarterback claiming prophetical sage wisdom at predicting the past events. Shooting the arrow and then drawing the target.

It is men like this who know that where there is chaos there is profit. The best way to control thought is to make sure it is not focused on critical issues. So, we have the loss of local politics. I bet every local politician running for office or canvasing their constituents for feedback on a neighborhood matter has needed to field the question about party affiliation or who they voted for President in the last election. Not to say the Presidential election is not important for the country, but the local influence on that election is less than a match on a conflagration. But we are willing to let that rule our opinions at the local level.

In Dracut in the last municipal election my vote was one of six hundred and three. My vote in the presidential election on the popular vote is one of over two hundred million. You tell me where my vote was more influential.

And this is w/here the power really is held, at the local level. We have some politicians who know how to game the system to benefit their family and friends. I do not begrudge someone as Benjamin Franklin said, "does well by doing good." An ethical politician will know where those lines are and stay far from those borders as they can.

Our leaders' first task should be to enable the citizens to govern themselves. This can only be accomplished by ensuring the citizens are connected to one another rather than connected with the government. Citizens should likewise demand everyone be treated equally and fairly, most of which, those we disagree with. P

ut away the "what if-isms" that are used to divide and separate people. We as a nation, state and city or town should look past the politics of segregation and be indivisible. ◊

LITERACY FROM PAGE 4

is not uniform among students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds, making the need to provide quality PFL education an equity issue." (Goldberg p. 3). Ultimately, the provision of a strong financial literacy framework is a matter of having the resources to complete it. Through enshrining this crucial coursework as a promise to every pupil in the Commonwealth, we can break down the socio-economic barriers which are currently barring underserved children from being equipped with the knowledge to attain financial security and prosperity.

Massachusetts is the best state in the nation for education, there is no question about that. But let us not be blinded by our prestige to the very real flaws that persist within our systems. Although work has been done, it is up to us to recognize that there is still much more work that needs to be done. Fortunately, many of the pieces of this puzzle are already in existence and now is the time to put all of them together. I am proud to be working to fulfill this promise to students all across the state and am looking forward to the conversation that will commence. By bringing parents, educators, district leaders, financial professionals, scholars, and students to the table, we can continue our relentless pursuit of a more perfect union, state, and education system. ◊

Supreme Court Keeps Getting it Right While Both Political Parties Spew Hypocrisy and Lies

If you follow the coverage of each Supreme Court ruling lately, you may have noticed how democrats, the media, and republicans change their public narrative on the court depending on whether or not they benefit from each ruling, not based on whether or not the constitution actually supports their claims.

Democrats and their shills in the news media routinely whine that the Supreme Court is an "extreme" and "right-wing" court, hell-bent on bringing pain and misery to the people of this country. That is, when they don't get their way. When they do get their way, they hail the court as virtuous and all- knowing.

Because of the constant dishonesty on all sides, it's almost impossible to know who's telling the truth when the court makes a ruling. So, let's take a look at the most recent spate of rulings to see if any of their claims pan out.

INDEPENEDENT LEGISLATURE

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 against a republican claim that state legislatures have the sole authority over election laws (such as drawing congressional districts) without a legal review of state courts.

Democrats claimed that all election laws must be subject to judicial review in cases where state legislatures make unfair laws to benefit one political party.

Joining "conservative" Justice Roberts in the 6-3 majority decision were "conservative" Justices Kavanaugh and Barrett, as well as the court's three so-called "liberal" Justices Sotomayor, Kagan, and Jackson. A weird alignment for sure, given what we are fed on CNN and in The New York Times every day.

What they ruled is that the constitution says nothing at all about legislatures having "sole authority" over election laws.

Democrats (and their shills in the media) who decry a "right wing, extremist court" when they don't get their way, were chirping loudly about how the court's ruling gave legitimacy to their position and how "judicious" they were in getting this ruling correct.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Days later, however, when the Supreme Court ruled that racism is still unconstitutional, striking down the use of affirmative action in college admissions, members of the Democrat Party (cult?) who had just hailed the court as virtuous in the "independent legislature" case, were suddenly back to their tired, old propaganda about an "out of control extremist court" filled with "right wing ideologues" who only rule the way republicans want them to.

It was silly and embarrassing for a political party that once stood with Martin Luther King's dream of a color-blind society, but there it was. Democrat after democrat attacking the court and proposing "court reform" to try and get future rulings that will benefit them

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

The court also ruled against President Biden's efforts to forgive student loans because the constitution gives only congress the role of spending money, incurring, and forgiving debt. Since Biden was trying to forgive these loans without congressional approval, the Biden plan was struck down.

He certainly could have gotten congressional approval and achieved his goal when congress was controlled by the democrats in his first two years in office. But, he chose not to do that.

Biden and his followers then blamed republicans instead of themselves for killing the debt forgiveness plan, because he certainly couldn't have said "Yeah, you got me, we knew all along that this wasn't constitutional, but we had to try!"

That would be too honest, and if there's one thing neither party can tolerate on the national stage, it's honesty with the American people. So, they clutched their pearls and predicted Blacks would be back in chains within a few years.

FREE SPEECH vs. LGBT RIGHTS

The most recent ruling stems from a Christian web designer who objected to same sex couples being able to force her to design a gay wedding webpage.

What they said was, while she has no right to refuse service to a client because they are gay or lesbian, she has every right to refuse to support a website with a "message" she does not agree with.

In other words, if a gay man owns a web design business, he cannot refuse to create a webpage for a Catholic. He does, however, have the right to refuse to design a Catholic webpage that opposes gay marriage, or interracial relationships.

It's all about the message, not who the client is. The government cannot "compel speech" and forcing a web designer to create content they do not agree with violates the First Amendment's free speech clause.

Yet, CNN and the democrat controlled "news" media "reported" that LBGT rights were in peril because of the "extremist court" and that the ruling was a "blow to LGBT rights" sending us backwards 100 years. The ruling did no such thing, and has no bearing on gay rights. But that doesn't benefit the current politics of the Democrat Party, so they lied to the public yet again.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Two months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court *unanimously* ruled that home equity theft by government entities is unconstitutional, securing an individual's right to just compensation when their property is confiscated and sold in a tax foreclosure. For example, if someone owes $15,000 in back taxes and the government takes their property to satisfy that debt, they can only keep the $15,000 they are owed when the property is sold. The balance of the sale must be given back to the rightful property owner.

Strangely, republicans hailed the ruling while the democrats said nothing at all, and the democrat-controlled "news" media barely reported on it. That's because it didn't fit the narrative of an "out of control right wing extremist" court.

THE ROLE OF THE COURT IS NOT TO EXPAND RIGHTS!

The saddest part of all of this is that most Americans have no idea what's in the constitution, and have been taught to view it as a "living breathing document" that should "change with the times."

It isn't.

It says what it says, and it means what it means, just like every other law in this country. It is not fluid, it is static. It has to be in order to mean anything.

The function of the Court is to apply what the constitution actually says, to current laws being challenged. If the constitution does not address a particular issue, that issue is a right to be decided by the states, not the federal government.

This was the problem with Roe v. Wade and why the court rightfully overturned it in the Dobbs decision. Abortion and "privacy rights" are mentioned nowhere in the constitution, and therefore a right to be decided by the individual states.

Yet, republicans who had just spent 50 years complaining that abortion was a state's rights issue, are now laughingly advocating for a federal abortion ban.

This, even though the Dobbs decision very clearly states that the federal government has no say on abortion.

CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The fact is, if Americans don't like what the constitution actually says, (democrats in the Dobbs case, republicans in the "independent legislature" case) they can't change it with judicial rulings, because eventually it will be overturned by a future court.

To change the constitution, we must use the mechanisms contained within the document. That is; holding a constitutional convention where 2/3rds of the states ratify an amendment, then 2/3rds of the federal legislature ratifying it, and then the president signing the new amendment as Abraham Lincoln once did with slavery.

Remember, slavery was originally a state's rights issue because the constitution (at the time) did not address slavery. So, some states outlawed slavery while others embraced it. Courts ruled correctly again and again that slavery was indeed constitutional. To rectify this, a convention was called. States ratified the 14th Amendment, congress and the president ratified it, and the U.S. Constitution was forever changed.

But, it wasn't done by putting people on the court to simply rule that slavery SHOULD be unconstitutional. That's what democrats did with abortion, and it was eventually (and rightfully) overturned.

Now, because democrats don't like these most recent rulings, they are again talking about expanding the court, instituting term limits on justices, and even more destructively, publicly attacking judges, their families, and their personal lives because judges ruled against their political interests or, more accurately, the interests of their donors.

If democrats were to be successful in any of these efforts it would forever threaten every provision in the constitution's Bill of Rights and could, in the future, result in the repealing of the first amendment protections of free speech, a free press, and freedom of religion. It could also repeal the the 14th amendment making slavery constitutional again because it "changed with the times."

That is not a far-fetched prediction. For, if one part of the Bill of Rights can be perverted by acativist judges for political ends, every part of the Bill of Rights would be up for grabs by future courts as the "times change".

SITUATIONAL ETHICS IS RUINING THE COUNTRY

So far, the court has ruled correctly on all these recent cases, even though neither political party agrees.

The fact is, according to the actual text of the constitution, affirmative action IS, in-fact racism and therefore unconstitutional. The government cannot take your property without making you whole. Business owners are and should be free to refuse to participate in an activity and messages they do not agree with. The president does not have the right to forgive student loans without congressional approval. Abortion and privacy rights are nowhere in the constitution, and state legislatures do not have the sole right to make election laws without judicial review by state courts.

If you don't like any or all of that, your remedy is to change the constitution with a constitutional convention. Don't blame the justices for applying what the constitution actually says.

To do so, would make no more sense than the morally vapid leaders of both political parties who flip flop on the issues depending on what benefits them.

If you ask me, I think we've had enough of situational ethics from the media, republicans and democrats.

If we don't start educating people about the function of the constitution and what it says - and why - we may not have a real constitution very much longer. ◊

EDUCATION: FROM PAGE 5

visit us on-line.

Another controversial CSE curriculum in use in MA schools is Get Real: Comprehensive Sex Education That Works by Planned Parenthood (PP). The Manager of Youth and Professional Education for the Planned Parenthood League of MA was also on the Framework revision panel. The content in Get Real is equally as problematic as what is found in the 3Rs. For instance, PP's 6th-grade curriculum (students as young as 11 years old) teaches children how to enthusiastically consent to sexual activity, promotes solo and mutual masturbation, directs teachers to lead children through inappropriate sexual role-playing scenarios, and more. Content from Get Real can be viewed here.

Sex ed lessons aligned with the updated draft framework will not empower MA students with the skills they need to build healthy lives as the Governor claims. Instead, they will groom vulnerable youth toward early sexual debut and transgender identifications that set them up for mental, emotional, and physical harm.

In fact, research, and studies of CSE programs in schools show that they fail to demonstrate effectiveness at reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, two stated objectives of CSE programs. Some actually increase pregnancy and high-risk sexual activity.

Additionally, studies show that 100% of children who assume a transgender identification and use puberty blockers will go on to use cross-sex hormones, leaving them permanently sterile.

Read Responding to the Transgender Issue, Parent Resource Guide on our website to learn more about this serious issue affecting our youth.

At the end of the Health Framework discussion at the BESE meeting yesterday, the board voted to send the draft Framework out for public comment. After the public comment period ends the board will review the feedback and vote on whether to adopt the draft as is or with revisions.

Members of the public have until August 28, 2023, to submit their comments on the proposed learning standards. Comments can be submitted in one of two ways:

sending an email to: advocacy.charityengine.net/Default.aspx?isid=1616, or by mail sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Attention: Kristen McKinnon, 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02131.

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Project Kompass

Housing, Independent Living Skills for Homeless Young Adults

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT/COLUMNIST

KANE'S KORNER

Kane didn't know which way to look first when he entered the Project Kompass Home in North Chelmsford. Should he look around the beautiful, tidy, and cheerful home or look at the inviting and confident face of Founder, Executive Director Ronnie Hoey? Kane learned that word "homeless shelter" is not spoken to describe the beautiful home that provides housing, mentoring, financial planning, career development skills and mental and wellbeing support to homeless young adults in North Chelmsford, and the same for homeless young moms in the Lowell House Location. Kane agreed this sure doesn't look like a "typical" shelter. The home is warm and inviting. As some of you may know, Kane was a homeless puppy so he has an interest in programs that assist people and animals find their way from the streets to independence. This is not an easy task to accomplish as the cost of living rises.

Ronnie is extremely passionate about her work that she and cofounder David Aldrich envisioned and ultimately built independently without state and federal financial support. Amazingly a key and unique component is the program does not have the limitations of federal and state funding allowing for an immediate and quick response to housing people in need as opposed to the paperwork shuffle that keeps people waiting in dangerous situations for weeks or sometimes months.

Both founder David Aldrich and Ronnie Hoey, without the limitations of federal and state housing, are not limited to cookie cutter services. As Ronnie stated, "Project Kompass meets residents where they are, so each resident's plan is unique to the participants needs." For example, with state regulations you might be back out on the street on your 24th birthday due to the age restrictions of government agencies. In contrast Project Kompass has the option of making an exception if the client has housing set up after their 24th birthday or a job starting after the 24th birthday. In other words, the program truly focuses on the individual needs of the client.

The average stay in the program (homelessness to independence) is 16 months. Participating in Project Kompass includes a commitment to 32 hours of work or full-time school / training program. Each young adult participates in life skill training, hands on financial training, and weekly case management and mentoring. Ronnie explained to Kane that the program is set up for motivated young adults willing to work hard to create their personal independence. The program is not designed for those solely looking for a temporary housing option. Incorporated in Jan 2020 as a 501C3, Project Kompass opened their North Chelmsford house in 2020, housing 9 participants in private rooms and in 2021 opened their Lowell house, housing 7 mothers and their babies in private rooms. Kane explained that Ronnie certainly has her fingers on resources in the local community. She excels as a relationship builder, so each participant has the resources to build their unique independence plan. Ronnie excitedly explained that a new partnership with Hidden Pond Derry, LLC will provide Animal Assisted Therapy for participants including equine care and riding.

Kane was excited to learn that the participants are all from the local community. With the average local cost of an apartment being $1,800.00 per month it is no wonder we are seeing an increase in homelessness. Can you imagine this cost as a single person or a young adult with a baby? Even splitting the cost with a roommate would be high after paying for transportation, food, and utilities and potentially childcare. Ronnie explained to Kane that some of the clients are referred to Project Kompass by the local agencies and self-referred. The participants are also required to take part in daily chores and abide by a curfew.

So how does Project Kompass get funded? It is funded through generous donors and the donations of the community who has embraced this unique model. To make a donation please visit https://projectkompass.org and click on the donation tab at the top of the website. The program also relies on the support of volunteers to provide essential skills to the participants such as life skill training, job readiness and parenting support. Other volunteer opportunities include organizing community events and fundraising. Either way check on the website to learn more about Project Kompass. As for Ronnie Hoey, well she is one in a million. Kane was very happy to meet her acquaintance and was mesmerized by her passion and energy.

Woof,
Kane Peaslee, Columnist
Valley Patriot ◊

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Clear Path To Provide Services for Veterans in Methuen, Lawrence and Haverhill

Randy Carter and Jason Gilbert from Clear Path for Veterans New England (in Devans) held a public meeting at the Methuen VFW last month to announce a $205,000 grant to service veterans in Lawrence, Methuen and Haverhill.

Clear Path's announcement came at just the right time with the closing of Veterans Northeast Outreach (VNOC) in Haverhill. VNOC has been evicting veterans from housing all over the valley, and canceling food delivery programs after misspending millions of dollars in government grants.

The Valley Patriot first reported on the misdeeds of VNOC in February of 2020 after founder John Ratka passed away and North Andover's Ed Mitchell took over, firing veterans and hiring his friends who were all civilians. Mitchell so poorly managed the organization in his short time at VNOC that they never recovered.

"Our goal is to set up shop here in Methuen and we are looking for a physical location right now that will be convenient for local veterans to visit," Carter said. "We are not new to this area by any stretch," he continued. "

"Jason Gilbert, our Chief Operating Officer, and I were handing out food boxes during the pandemic up at the loop. We have been helping veterans in this area for about 15 years now. Myself, Jason and Yanitza worked at another agency (VNOC) before we came to Clear Path, so the Merrimack Valley is home to all of us."

Carter said that Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Fitchburg, and Leominster are the hardest hit areas for veterans in need of services.

"So, of course what are we going to do? We are going to come home right here in Methuen."

Carter is a Methuen resident.

"So, who are we? Clear Path for Veteran New England is basically a one stop shop for any veteran who comes to our door."

"If they need a claim done, if they need a service dog, we can help with that. We have a culinary program. We help with getting veterans social security and unemployment. We are helping with home repairs, child care, groceries, whatever a veteran needs that people don't often think of as a veteran issue, we are here for them. Basically, whatever the veteran needs we are going to be there."

Carter said that there are veterans who may not be ready to go to the city's Veterans Service Officer. "So they can come to us and when they are ready we have done the groundwork to make his job easier."

Jason Gilbert and Randy Carter from Clear Path for Veterans New England are expaning veteran outreach to Methuen

"For me, the worst thing you can do is screw with a veteran by putting them off and putting them in a predicament that's going to frustrate them and make them want to give up. We don't want that anymore here in Methuen. We are seeing too much of that and we are here to say, the days of veterans not getting what they deserve and need in Methuen are over.

Carter said that they are working on three housing projects right now.

"We have one in Devans, Billerica, and Tewksbury. We want to replicate that here in Methuen because Methuen needs housing. And I know we have Councilors Zeigler, Faretra, and Rep. Ryan Hamilton here so I'm going to repeat that. Methuen needs housing."

"We also need veterans to let us know what their specific needs are and that's why we are here at the VFW tonight. I know what I needed, and it took me actually working in a veterans agency to figure out how to get it. So, now we are looking to hire peer counselors and case managers. We are looking to hire veterans who know the people in this area, and know what the needs are to help us accomplish our mission."

The grant we just received was $205,000 to assist with outreach in the Merrimack Valley. We can make that

CLEAR PATH: PAGE 25

80th Anniversary Memorium, PFC. Paul Bongiorno, US Army

World War II was the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind. Violence spread over all the inhabited continents, nearly every nation was involved, either as a combatant or as a victim. It is estimated that at least 35 million people perished, the exact number may be 70 million or more, it is impossible to have an exact number as mass graves, crematoriums, drownings at sea, or indescribable bodily injuries masked the exact number.

The USA, relatively fortunate, lost "only" 440,000 soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, nurses, medics, and other military personnel; the Merrimack Valley had over 2,000 deaths. The City of Lawrence alone had 352. Paul Bongiorno was one of those from Lawrence.

Who was Paul Bongiorno? From what the family knows today he was a free spirit, full of life, lovable, sometimes a bit of a knave, but just a good person. Paul's parents, Gaetano Bongiorno and Angelina (Augeri) Bongiorno were born in Melilli, Sicily, a small town near Siracusa in the southwest region of Sicily. They came separately to Lawrence, young and penniless, but full of hope for a better life than what was available to them in Sicily. Paul, born in 1920, was their fourth child, and from the beginning was a genuine character.

Paul grew up on Common Street, attended Lawrence public schools, graduated from Lawrence High School. He loved his motorcycle, the wind in his face, his moustache and rich Italian food, he was a gifted artist not inclined to real work, he was young and spoiled by his older brother and sisters. Paul gave no thought to the violence in Europe, Asia, or Africa, living for the present, the war was someone else's problem. Then Pearl Harbor.

Like thousands of young men Paul enlisted right away, anxious to rid the world of the "Yellow Terror." Into the Army he went. Basic training was at Fort Dix, then off to infantry training. After infantry school Paul was assigned to the US Army First Infantry Division, the "Big Red One," as a private in the 26th Infantry Regiment, the "Blue Spades". Most of the soldiers enlisted to fight the Japanese but the Allies had a "Europe First" plan to defeat the Nazis then deal with the Japanese. Paul and the Blue Spaders were put on a ship, then dodging German U-boats, raced to North Africa.

Paul went ashore on the first Allied Amphibious assault in WWII where he encountered Vichy French resistance and then after the Vichy surrendered, he engaged the Afrika Korps of Erwin Rommel, the "Desert Fox." Hot, dusty, dry, and dangerous, North Africa in 1942 proved to be the US Army's crucible of fire.

The Americans were totally unprepared for desert warfare and the tactics of Erwin Rommel, but the young US soldiers rapidly learned to fight hard, smart, and lethal. Paul was in all the major battles in North Africa. After North Africa was won the Allies had 250,000 German and Italian prisoners and the Nazis would not have the Libyan oil they needed. Paul and the other GI's thought they would be going back home. The Brass had other plans.

Paul and the Blue Spades went ashore in Sicily. The Italian Army was in chaos as the Italian soldiers found their homeland being destroyed before their eyes. The Italians surrendered but the Germans fought all the harder in a desperate effort to get Wehrmacht to the Strait of Messina for an escape to mainland Italy. Under the command of Omar Bradley, Paul and the Americans pursued the Germans through the center of Sicily. It was a slow, bloody, sometimes indecisive running battle against a motivated and dangerous enemy.

Then just outside the Town of Troina in a skirmish before the major assault on the city, Paul was severely wounded; he died of his wounds on July 25, 1943, just another statistic, he was 23 years old. When the telegram from the War Department came to Common Street, Paul's parents were in Middletown, Connecticut, visiting Paul's uncle; Paul's cousin, Joseph, had been wounded at Guadalcanal. Misery was everywhere.

When a family's loved one (son, husband, brother, sister) was in military service the War Department sent the family a flag with a blue star to be placed in your window. Common Street, Union Street, Ames Street, Cambridge Street had hundreds of blue star flags, nearly every home sported a flag. Then the bad news started. Your loved ones would not be coming home, you would never see them again, their dreams never to be. So, the families received a flag with a gold star to put in their window, a sign of loss. Gold stars became commonplace, eventually they lost the significance of despair. The Nation became hardened to its losses, individuals were replaced by numbers. Dehumanization, the subtle evil of war, had nearly triumphed. But to families only their lost loved ones counted.

So what made Paul Bongiorno different, unique, important? Nothing. He was just a kid from a dirty mill town. He could have been from the Bronx, Seattle, Houston, or Chicago. He could have been an ally from London, Paris, Oslo, Moscow, Warsaw, or the enemy from Tokyo or Berlin. In fact, he was all of them, they all were him, symbols of International youth lost. But, more than anything, Paul was an American soldier, perhaps not wanting to give his life, but like all of them prepared to do so to

preserve and protect their loved ones, their way of life, the freedoms, however flawed, that define our nation. We, the readers, and the beneficiaries owe them and must honor them. Paul and the thousands of others from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Everywhere Else only want to be appreciated and remembered.

This writing is only a small part of our obligation.

Authors' note: Paul Bongiorno was our uncle, he only met one of his many nieces and nephews before he went to war, but his legacy has endured for the 80 years since his passing. His family has 4 Pauls to honor him. We felt it appropriate to remember and recognize the 80th anniversary of his passing.

Sam Concemi
Paul Concemi
Paul Salafia ◊

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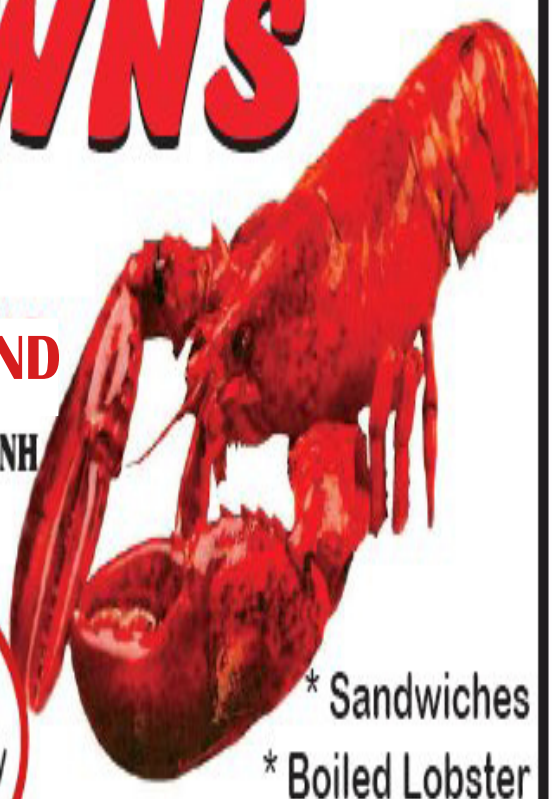

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Wood Says Police Chief Threatened Him with Release of Fake Accusation

THE ACCUSATION

VIOLATING A LEGAL AGREEMENT

"None of the information that was printed was based on actual facts or proof. It was all based on heresay, which is the reason why there waas an agreement between myself and the city from an allegation abotu 20 years ago. This was supposed to be an agreement that the document with the false allegation would be destroyed and the information would never be used.

in 213 there was never any proof on this, Nothing was ever tied to me. There was no IP address showing it came from me. There was no chain of custody on the electronic message I am accused of sending. Nothing you would need to do in order to prove who was actually behind this message.

The mot frustrating part of those printed media reports that were actually printed is that he (the reporter) he spoke to former Police Chief Alan Denaro. Denaro actually told him that I was never tied to this conversation. Denaro was the chief of police during this time in question.

the orignal report there were two major mistakes in it, he never interviewed me as is required for anyone applying to be a police officer. He also stated that they never confirmed any of thi was me. "I

MIRRA FROM PAGE 4

Not happy with the results, Kassner's attorneys approached the administrators and asked for the box of spoiled ballots. It seemed strange, because in Georgetown, we were told that spoiled ballots cannot be unspoiled and counted.

Kassner's team cherry picked the ballots in the box and chose 5 in her favor.

To be clear, there were spoiled ballots for Representative Mirra as well, but as I mentioned, we were told on Monday, by very knowledgeable attorneys, that they were not allowed to be counted.

At this point, the roped off area was no longer roped off and volunteers were lingering around the ballot area, everyone was talking at once and it started to be a little chaotic and loud. When the five spoiled mail in ballots were presented by Kassner's team to the town, Trudy Reid immediately insisted that the Kassner votes should absolutely be counted for her that day.

We mentioned to Trudy Reid that on Monday's recount in Georgetown, we were told by those attorneys that spoiled ballots are never allowed to be counted in a recount. She insisted they are going to count them. We also suggested that perhaps all these spoiled contested ballots should be put aside, to be determined by a judge in case of a trial. Trudy Reid, along with Kassner's attorneys, fiercely argued against the suggestion. It was not a respectful debate, there was no clarification of laws or confidence that the decisions that were being made on the spot were legitimate, we were just told they were going to allow for spoiled ballots to be counted in favor of Kassner.

At first, they were reluctant to bring the issue to the Board of Registrars to vote, they wanted to just include the Kassner votes in the total for the day without the vote of the board. When they finally did bring it to the three officials on the board, the town didn't allow her side to present a reasonable argument and then our side to present an argument, Trudy Reid presented the questionable Kassner mail in ballot votes to the board of electors and she then instructed the board to make a motion to allow the votes for Kassner.

There are witnesses to her instructing the board on how to vote. She did not allow or make any effort to include the Mirra spoiled mail in ballots that were in the box to be counted.

The Town argued so strongly for Kassner that at one point, I had to ask the Rowley Town Clerk if she was working for Kassner because I was sincerely confused about her role that day. She laughed at me, and said she was there representing the Town of Rowley.

The Board of Registrars had no questions, they voted the five spoiled ballots in favor of Kassner. I was stunned and frustrated by the situation, there was no clarification of their decision, just the dishonest attempt to grab votes.

Later, I asked to see the mail in ballot envelopes that were received after election night in order to compare the signatures with the appropriate voter registration cards signatures. I was strongly discouraged for requesting this information because "they are not handwriting experts" and could not be expected to verify signatures and "they just wanted to go home."

After some persistence from me, because according to the Secretary of State's office, it was the only opportunity we had to compare signatures, they reluctantly did bring up the voter registration signature cards from the vault. Voter envelopes for the few ballots received after election night were not produced, they were mixed in with hundreds of other mail in ballot envelopes and it would take too long to find them. It was noted by the town. Understand that we could not take pictures of envelopes or ballots, we just wanted to see if the signatures on the ballot envelopes were a close match to the registration cards.

At the end of the day, all contested ballots were then separated and stored separately so they could be considered at a higher level, we all expected this to go to trial. All towns had adopted this same process for the contested ballots. The only consolation was that once these ballots were reviewed, the truth would come out, I knew the voters would be outraged over what had happened. I was confident that good people would review the ballots and do the right thing, that the will of the voters would determine the outcome of this election and integrity would prevail. Obviously, this did not happen.

Democrats on Beacon Hill handed the seat over to Kassner without any consideration of the voters. ◊

Mayor DePeña Gets $3M Grant, Designs HOME ARP Plan to Help the Homeless

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePeña has announced the City of Lawrence has been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C. and Boston for the HOME ARP Plan with the grant award of $3,174,052 Million for the City of Lawrence.

These funds are possible through the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP), and Mayor DePeña's initiatives to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country.

HOME-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROGRAM

Eligible Populations

HOME-ARP funds must be used to primarily benefit individuals or families from the following qualifying populations:

- Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a));
- At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(1));
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary;
- In other populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability;
- Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meets one of the preceding criteria.

HOME-ARP Funds (5% for administration and planning) $158,702.60

HOME-ARP Remaining Funds (95% of allocation) $3,015,349.40

HOME-ARP Award $3,174,052.00

Eligible Activities - HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities.

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, including services defined at 24 CFR 578.53(e), homeless prevention services, and housing counseling.
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter. These structures can remain in use as non-congregate shelters or can be converted to: 1) emergency shelter under the Emergency Solutions Grant program; 2) permanent housing under the Continuum of Care; or 3) affordable housing under the HOME Program.

For more information contact: Néstor Castillo, Communications Director

(978) 771-9773

nestor.castillo@cityoflawrence.com

Awilda Pimentel, Department of Community Development, 12 Methuen St. Lawrence, MA 01840

awilda.pimentel@cityoflawrence.com

Woke World Blues

Ken Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

The followers of Woke World have experienced major setbacks lately, which demonstrate the limits of their influence in 2023 mainstream America. Anheuser-Busch (AB), Disney and Target have collectively lost almost $100 billion in revenue over woke antics since 2022.

The battles between Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Disney executives are well-documented. Target received massive backlash over its transgender swimwear products aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, with an 'extra crotch coverage' on bathing suits. And AB's domestic sales of Bud Light and related brands continue to nosedive with no end in sight, due to its promotion of a Tik Tok star who identifies as a woman but remains exclusively a biological male.

We used to be able to conduct civil dialogue and discourse in the public arena. I have so many questions that I don't think have been fully vetted by the Woke community, which is mainly why they have experienced such an adverse reaction on multiple fronts. They simply cannot fathom why their agenda is opposed in the first place. But I will do my best to raise some legal and societal ramifications that I hope will thoughtfully engage the readership here.

One of the most puzzling mysteries that has confounded me is the willingness of some in society to allow biological males, who self-identify as female, to compete in women's sports. Title IX was landmark legislation that created a level playing for women in sports and activities. It strictly prohibited discrimination based on sex, created safe harbor protections for female athletes and ensured an influx of funding for programs under the oversight of federal law. In turn, female sports have expanded in size and allowed millions of women a positive and enriching outlet for excellence.

How is allowing a biological male to participate in female competitions not a violation of Title IX? They can enter the same locker rooms and changing areas as biological females. How is that not an invasion of privacy? Isn't that act alone a potential case of sexual harassment? That biological male, even under hormone-replacement therapy, will still have the same equipment and exhibit an unfair advantage in many cases. How about males who operate strictly based on identity alone? Shouldn't they be allowed to compete if they promise to start transitioning? Who is going to enforce this Pandora's Box and how can we possibly ensure privacy in changing rooms and showers—not only on campuses, but public schools, private-sector gyms and woman only establishments?

And how about those self-identifying as female? Are they now a protected class? There is no indication whatsoever that Tik Tok star, and alleged transgender Dylan Mulvaney, has gone through any stage of gender reassignment surgery or hormone-replacement therapy yet purports to be going through a year of womanhood. But how can Dylan be classified as transgender when there is absolutely no transitioning going on?

At least I can somewhat understand someone like Bruce Jenner, who personally felt trapped in a male's body and could not take it anymore. Caitlyn Jenner went through the full gender reassignment surgery. But Dylan has not, but I am supposed to use pronouns She/Her with him? WTH? And not only that, but Bud Light fans were also ridiculed as being out of touch and fratty by the VP of Marketing, which is a first for me--- directly insulting most drinkers while promoting a false fairy tale of Dylan's blossoming womanhood. What brilliance? And still no official apology from AB.

The woke crowd used to be focused on the hallmarks of orientation and equality, as opposed to recruitment and advocacy geared to young children. Many were highly critical of the term sexual preference, because a person was born and oriented toward GLBTQ acceptance.

So, if we, as today's society, should naturally welcome someone who identifies as GLBTQ, why are we showcasing sexual orientation and gender identity issues in grades kindergarten through 3? In the same vein that many people condemn gay conversion therapy sponsored by some churches, which I agree is psychologically harmful, then why are we condoning parents who thrust identity and gender issues upon their children, some of which may be irreversible? If there is a natural and genetic progression of one's development, why apply artificial, man-made settings? Just because a parent is gay, doesn't necessarily make the child gay, and vice-versa. And believe me, I have no problem with age-appropriate books on GLBTQ and anti-bullying campaigns. And parents should be taught to instruct their kids on stranger danger.

The Florida Governor's main mission was to remove that mindset of direct advocacy from lower elementary schools. But supposedly he banned the word gay across Florida, according to critics, which is why I blame most media outlets for deliberating fueling the flames of division across the nation. Just take time to read the actual law!

And keeping the same subject in mind, what is the relevancy of drag queens in children's story time? When did the leap occur from the historically adult oriented nature of drag queen performances at cabarets and nightclubs to children's events anyway? Why branch out to children other than to engage in advocacy and promotion? I understand the historical importance of these clubs in giving GLBTQ members a sense of defiance, solidarity and togetherness in a sometimes hostile and uninviting world. But adult themes should not be imposed upon impressionable children, regardless of one's sexual orientation. I would never entertain a stripper going to story time either. Can we restore some sensible boundaries, or will Woke World continue to alienate much of the population?

MassHealth Spent Nearly $85M on Out-of-State Residents

IN YOUR CORNER with AUDITOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

Our office has been very busy releasing several audit reports before the end of the fiscal year, while also focusing on approximately 64 ongoing audits. Most recently, we released an audit of MassHealth, as part of our ongoing independent statutory oversight of the state's Medicaid program. I want to highlight this audit in particular for readers as an example of how a state agency did not ensure money was being spent appropriately and therefore overpayments were made. Fortunately, our office conducts these audits to properly review this type of misspending and shine a light for MassHealth to make necessary improvements to their processes and procedures moving forward.

Our audit determined that MassHealth made an estimated $84,832,094 in payments to managed care organizations (MCOs) on behalf of individuals living outside of Massachusetts.

In every audit released from our office where there are findings, we also provide recommendations to the auditee. In this audit, our office recommended that MassHealth require sufficient documentation to substantiate residency in Massachusetts. We also recommended that MassHealth investigate and resolve all instances where data shows a member is enrolled in another state's Medicaid program.

We want our audits to serve as a tool for agencies to help ensure greater transparency and accountability in every area of state government. Due to a lack of appropriate oversight by MassHealth, payments to MCOs were made for far too long on behalf of people enrolled in another state's/territory's healthcare program. Our office strongly urges MassHealth to adopt this audit's recommendations in a timely manner to help prevent an issue of this magnitude from happening again in the future.

To read this audit in its entirety, check it out here: https://www.mass.gov/audit/audit-of-the-office-of-medicaid-masshealth-review-of-capitation-payments

Our audits will continue to shine a light on state agencies to identify misuse of taxpayer dollars and help ensure a more accountable and transparent state government.

As always, feel free to contact our office anytime via email at auditor@sao.state.ma.us or by phone at (617) 727-2075. If you're ever in the State House, I hope you'll stop by and visit our team in room 230!

Yours in service,

Diana ◊

Honoring a Local News Legend in Dracut

By Brian Genest

VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

EYE ON DRACUT

"You're fired," Dr. Marsha Della-Giustina told my classmate in our Broadcast Journalism 2 course at Emerson College.

It was the fall of 1989, thirty seconds after the bell rang on the first day of the class. As my dilatory would-be classmate tried to enter the room, Marsha blocked the doorway and began to shut the door. The classmate tried to push her way in and a struggle with screaming ensued as they both tried to shove the other out of the way. Eventually, Marsha slammed the door and sent the young woman on her furious way.

Marsha Della-Giustina didn't lose many fights, literally or figuratively. She was a tough woman in a tough business who understood how tough it was to get and keep a job in journalism and she made sure her students got the message, too, even when it took tough love. "30 seconds of dead air; you're fired," she told the class matter-of-factly after the door was closed.

Marsha Della-Giustina was dedicated to journalism, educating outstanding journalists and ensuring our journalism was outstanding. She was full of advice, critiques, and knowledge about every little detail along the way. Marsha passed away in June after a brief illness at age 76, but her legacy lives on and so will her impact on journalism and the stories you see in the media for decades to come.

Most people in Dracut have probably never heard of Marsha Della-Giustina. But I can guarantee you her work and the work of her students has touched your life if you've read a newspaper article or watched a newscast in the last 50 years.

Marsha was a journalism pioneer who broke the glass ceiling for women in local television, established Emerson's Broadcast Journalism program and who inspired and taught generations of news reporters, anchors and producers for more than four decades.

At a time when few women were in the field of journalism, Marsha Della-Giustina produced and hosted I Am Woman, a critically acclaimed public affairs program highlighting women's economic, media, political and cultural issues that aired on WBZ-FM in Boston from 1973 until 1974. She was an award-winning news producer for WCVB-TV from 1974 until 1984. Marsha oversaw multiple daily broadcasts and served as both an ENG producer and assignment editor for which she earned two team Emmy awards. She was a field producer for numerous special events, including the 1976 presidential election. She later worked as an associate producer and writer for WLVI-TV in Boston from 1986 until 1990.

Marsha Della-Giustina's arrival at Emerson College in 1977, where she served as both journalism director and associate broadcast journalism professor, made her not only one of the most well-known journalism professors in Boston, but also one of the first female educators of the profession. Marsha created the undergraduate broadcast journalism program that quickly became one of the highest ranked and most respected in the nation. She was also instrumental in launching the college's first journalism master's program in 1997. A consummate taskmaster and a champion of journalistic integrity, Marsha was best known for her tireless dedication to teaching, believing that it extends well beyond the classroom and always demanding the highest professional standards from her students.

"Follow the money, Brian," she reminded me more than once, advice that has served me well in life, and not just as a news reporter and editor. Marsha was also infamous for telling her students to "trust no one" and to "assume nothing." She was full of other advice, too, and nothing was off limits, including your appearance on television and your health. "Your hair is too long; cut it." "Your suit coat looks terrible on camera; don't ever wear it again." "Take Vitamin C, sleep in 90-minute REM cycles and stay away from each other."

Marsha Della-Giustina was tough, but she was always fair. She demanded excellence because she believed the profession she had dedicated her life to deserved it. Due to her leadership and support, Emerson's network of journalism alumni extends across the country and around the globe. In New England alone, newsrooms in every state boast an Emersonian either in front of or behind the camera. We're writers, producers and editors who bring Marsha's teachings, standards, and love for our craft to work with us every day in Dracut and Damascus, from Boston to Beirut, and in every corner of the world in between.

Marsha Della-Giustina remained a beloved mentor to her students after graduation and many of them are remembering her and the impact she had on our careers, including Mike Kirby

at the Sun Chronicle. (https://www.thesunchronicle.com/opinion/columns/mike-kirby-a-long-overdue-thanks-marsha/article_b5c62ed8-7b96-536d-8293-788fe7b09fdf.html)

Likewise, fellow Emersonian Maria Stephanos did a wonderful tribute to Marsha, her life, and accomplishments on WCVB-TV.

(https://www.wcvb.com/article/dr-marsha-della-giustina-wcvb-alum-emerson-college-professor-dies/44179530#) Spoiler alert: Two weeks before she died, Marsha texted Maria while she was on the air to let her know that her earrings were too big.

Marsha Della-Giustina never stopped caring about her students, never stopped striving for journalistic excellence and never stopped worrying about every little detail. Thank you, Marsha, for everything.

-- Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye On Dracut, winner of the Hometown Media Award for News, sponsored by Lucky Oil. ◊

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LAWRENCE

Officials in the City of Lawrence are trying to get rid of Civil Service protections for police and firefighters just like North Andover and several other communities have done recently. Let's just be honest about what all this is really all about. Civil Service is entity that protects public workers from being fired or targeted because of their race or political involvement. Stripping away Civil Serviec protections means that communities can enact racist and sexist policies in hiring, firing, and discipline. We all know that the goal of the Massachusetts Democrat Party has been hell bent on targeting white police officers and their efforts to do away with Civil Service is an effort to achieve that goal. It also allows communities to hire and promote less qualified people for public jobs based on who they supported in the last election, something Civil Service was created to prevent.

HAVERHILL COUNCIL VIOLATES OPEN MEETING LAW

Leave it to the pompuos elites in Haverhill to blatantly violate the open meeting law and then provide proof of their illegal activity without a care in the world, all in the name of attacking a fellow elected official who is a threat to their political power.

Last month an unproven accusation was made against Haverhill School Committeeman Scott Wood with no evidence and no paper trail. The accusation was that Wood had used the "N-WORD" in a text message 20 years ago. Throwing the constitution out the window in their zeal to pile on the bad publicity wood was getting, City Councilors drafted and then unanimously signed a letter demanding criminal investigations against Wood. This, even though the accusation itself isn't even a criminal offense.

Violating the open meeting laws, however, IS a criminal offense in Massachusetts.

In order to a public body to draft and send such a letter, the issue has to be posted publicly, discussed at a public meeting, the public has to be afforded input, and then a public vote must be taken.

But, Haverhill City Councilors didn't do that. They clearly don't care about the law, they only cared about jumping on the "stop Scott Wood" bandwagon because he is daring to challenge their annointed replacement for Jim Fiorentini, (Melinda Barret) in this year's mayors race.

Haverhill resident Dee O'Neil, who is no fan of Scott Wood was so incensed by thier illegal actions that she filed a criminal complaint against the city council with the District Atorney's office.

Isn't it funny how the council is demanding a criminal investigation into Wood's alleged non-criminal behavior and in doing so violated criminal laws in the process. The Valley Patriot will also be filing a criminal complaint against the council as a body and each city councilor personally for their illegal act and will be calling out each of them in this years election.

It's time for the political insiders to stop weaponizing law enforcement to achieve their political goals. We urge Essex County District Attorney Paul Tucker to take this matter very seriously and hold each city councilor criminally responsible for their ccriminal behavior.

ILLEGALLY FIRED LAWRENCE COP FILES COMPLAINT WITH POST COMMISSION

A former probationary Lawrence Police Officer has filed a complaint with the state's POST Commission after proving that superioir officers within the police department lied to the Mayor when they told him the officer should not be hired full time, and should be let go because he had an active restraining order against him for domestic violance. The officer was initially let go by Mayor Dan Rivera during his probationary period, but when he learned of the deception agreed to rehire him after the officer again took and passed the civil service exam. But, (the complaint alleges), the head of internal affairs, and the police chief at the time refused to sign off on his "good moral character). The complaint asks the state's POST commissoin to decertify the captain involved in deceiving the mayor which would mean he would no longer be able to serve as a Lawrence Police Officer, or an officer in any other community in Massachusetts.

METHUEN HAS A SEX HARASSMENT PROBLEM

Far be it for me to complain about sexual harassment as I personally belive most sexual harassment laws are vague and subjective, and target men unfairly in the workplace. However, there are several court cases involving City of Methuen Officials (one before he was a city official) for sexually harassing or engaging in sex discrimination in the workplace. First there's the mayor who was recently named in a sex harassment lawsuit at Raytheon shortly before he left to run for Mayor of Methuen. Then there's the fire captain who sued in Civil Service and won a case involving her male counterpart beingn given interview questions preference when both were applying to be a deputy fire chief. On top of that there's the sexual harassment claim of a DPW employee who has been sexually harassed during ... belive it or not... a sexual harassment training session.

We will be following all these court cases calosely as they move through the system and will report on them as each case is decided.

GEORGETOWN - The state has Awarded Georgetown a $24,600 grant to improve and protect water quality.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has awarded the grant to conduct nonpoint source (NPS) pollution assessment and water quality management. This is to address impairments in local waterbodies. The town of Georgetown plans to conduct water quality and shore-line assessments to support the development of two watershed-based plans for Pentucket Pond and Rock Pond. Both are considered impaired waters. The project team will use the assessment results to develop conceptual designs for five high priority sites.

NORTH ANDOVER - FRANK CANN RECEIVES BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS AWARD

Congratulations to Frank Cann of F.H. Cann and Associates in North Andover for being honored at the Elks Lodge last month by the Lawrence Exchange Club for his work in the community to service the homeless, helping local charitie and providing needed services to the

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

A big thank you to the ladies at Pegasus House in Lawrence for coming to the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless at the Buckley Garage last month to help feed the homeless!

WINSTON SAYS!

Tom Duggan is NOT waiting 6 months for a police scanner

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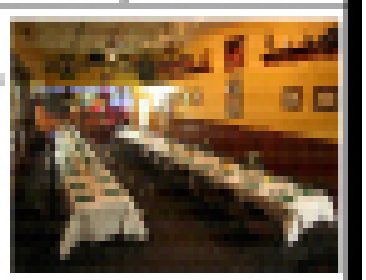

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NOTEBOOK CONTINUED

underprivelaged. On hand to speak of Cann's activities was Michael Gorman, founder of TMF and Rick Blain from the Exchange club as well as Cann's friends and family. We want to congratulate Frank on his well deserved award and thank him for all he has done to help the community.

UKRAIN PRESIDENT CANCELS ELECTIONS BECASUE... DEMOCRACY!!!

If you listen to the so called "news" media these days you will notice how every single story pushed the propaganda that the U.S. is supporing "democracy" by sending arm and trillions of dollars to Ukrain in their war against Russia. But a quick google search shows that Ukrain is anything but a "democracy". First, after losing a democratically held eleciton, Zelinsky toppled the rightful president of Ukrain and then jailed his political opponants, outlawed the opposing politial party and openly persecuted Christians in Ukrain. As if this wasn't bad enough, Zelinsky anounced last week that next years president election will only take place if the war with Russia is over. "Elections are for peacetime" the fascist neo Nazi stated. "Only if we win the war with Russia yes, there will be an elecion" he said, following up by saying

that there is no room for elections during war. This is not what "democracies" do, this is what fascists and communists do to maintain and grow their power. Yet, the American news media, (which are now just puppets for our intel agencies) refused to report on Zelinski's anti-democratic comments. During WWII it came down to the communists in Russia vs the fascists in Germany. America sided with the communist against Hitlers Socialist-Fascist regime and won. This time however, America is hell bent on supporting the fascists while employing fascist tactics of calling Ukraine a "democracy". It makes you wonder what the American government and our intel agencies have to hide.

NORTH ANDOVER CONCERT

The Trinitarian Congregational Church, located at 72 Elm Street will be hosting a free summer concert on July 16th, from 4-6 PM. TCC will showcase the band, Time Machine. They perform a wide variety of music in from the 50's, 60's and 70's. They specialize in the pop rock songs made famous by some of the 60's super girl groups as well as the Beatles, Motown, some 70's, and the golden age of the 50s. All are welcome and be sure to bring a chair. The concert will be outdoors on the grounds of TCC.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – THERAPEITIC HORSEBACK RIDING INSTRUCTOR AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Carriage Barn Equine Adaptive Therapy Programs is looking for volunteers to assist with therapeutic horseback riding & carriage driving, fundraising, events, and fun activities. Volunteers are needed at various times throughout the week to work with horses and clients. Teens, adults and retirees welcome (volunteers must be at least 14 years old). Experience and horse knowledge is a plus, but not required. Are you a student with a community service requirement (Honor Society, Scouts, 4-H, Graduation)? If so, we would love to hear from you! Anyone interested in learning more can contact The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140, email info.carriagebarn@comcast.net, or check out our website at www.carriage-barn.org.

The Carriage Barn, is also seeking a part time Therapeutic Horseback Riding Instructor with Potential for growth. This is a year-round position. Experience required. Hands on position. Direct interaction with clients, volunteers, staff, families / caregivers, public, and horses. Extra hours available for barn work. Quiet, supportive, family atmosphere. Private & semi private lessons. Must be able to legally work in USA.

The program offers services in Kensington, NH and seeks to promote the health and well-being of individuals of all ages and abilities by enhancing their physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional healing and strengthening through equine activities. The Carriage Barn is a 501c3 Not-for Profit Organization, as well as a member center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International.

Horse stall available - 12'x12' box stall, full turnout and board for $680/month. If interested, please call us at 603-378-0140 or email us at carriage-barn@comcast.net. Please share with friends/contacts who may be looking for a new stall.

Please contact The Carriage Barn, Kensington, NH at 603-378-0140; info.carriagebarn@comcast.net

Haverhill Approves 113 Apartments at Former Friends Landing Site

John F. McCarthy of Minco Development first outlined the housing plan in 2021. (WHAV News photograph.)

A long vacant parcel along the Merrimack River in downtown Haverhill will give way to 113 apartments and an improved public park following a vote of the Haverhill City Council last night.

Members approved a request by 85 Water St. Redevelopment, associated with Minco Development Corp of North Andover, to construct a multi-family apartment building and enlarge the River Rest Park adjacent to it. Eric B. Loth, vice president of acquisitions for the developer, told councilors that although the number of units to be built exceeds zoning density limits, it will still have the same number of total bedrooms as an earlier proposal approved for the site. There will be 49 studio apartments, 50 one-bedroom units and only 14 two-bedroom apartments.

"Roughly the same size as the project from 2015. We took the space of the 59 units which was 127 bedrooms and we designed what we thought made a lot more sense, trying to make the units more affordable," he said.

The developer petitioned the council in 2021 seeking a special permit to build 113 units on the site, which is located in the Waterfront Zoning District which typically allows for a maximum of only 83 units. At the time, councilors expressed a number of concerns leading the developer to withdraw the request without prejudice.

Loth added with most of the units being one-bedroom or fewer, there will likely be only a minimal impact on public schools. He added the builder is willing to offer three of the units as affordable housing and four other units as workforce housing, meaning rent for those units would not exceed 120% of the area's median income.

The developer also agreed to expand the existing River Rest Park as part of the project.

"We're going to use 30,000 square feet out of the 50,000 square foot of the lot. The other 20,000 square feet is going to be added to the park. The city will still own it. We'll maintain it," he said.

John F. McCarthy of Minco Development first outlined the housing plan in 2021. (WHAV News photograph.)

The property was the site of the former Friends Landing nightclub that was torn down 16 years ago, leaving an overgrown lot that Mayor James J. Fiorentini referred to as a blight on the area. "The result you have before you tonight is a beautiful, million dollar waterfront park to serve as the entranceway to our downtown. This is exactly what we need," he said.

While all councilors expressed support for the concept, some spoke of concerns over how it would affect traffic and infrastructure in general. At times, the discussion became like the game show "Let's Make A Deal" with councilors asking how many units the developer would be willing to cut.

Ultimately, a consensus was reached when Loth agreed to make an additional four units available as workforce housing and, at the request of Councilor Thomas J. Sullivan, to include a dog park.

The developer also agreed to a request by Haverhill Firefighters Local 1011 President Timothy Carroll to set aside 1,000 square feet of the park area adjacent to the firehouse for a memorial to Haverhill's fallen firefighters.

Councilors approved the project by a vote of 6-3 with Vice President John A. Michitson and Councilors Joseph J. Bevilacqua, Michael S. McGonagle, Catherine P. Rogers, Shaun P. Toohey and Sullivan voting in favor while President Timothy J. Jordan and Councilors Melinda E. Barrett and Melissa J. Lewandowski dissented. ◊

SENATOR PAYANO: FROM PAGE 5

the integrity of the admissions process and undermines the principles of fairness and equal opportunity.

While colleges argue that donations support financial aid programs and infrastructure development, research has shown no statistically significant evidence of a causal relationship between legacy preference policies and total alumni giving.

The existence of donor preferences opens the door to corrupt practices and unethical behavior. It can create an environment where influence and connections matter more than fairness and transparency.

As we learned from the Varsity Blue Admission Scandal, this can lead to instances of bribery, fraud, or other forms of illegal activity, as individuals may seek to exploit the system to secure admissions for themselves or their children.

Early Decision: The Pressure to Commit

Early decision programs, although not directly related to legacy preferences or donor preferences, add another layer of complexity to college admissions.

These programs require students to commit to attending a particular institution if accepted, often before they can compare financial aid offers from multiple schools.

Early decision tends to favor students from privileged backgrounds who can make binding commitments without financial concerns.

This can further exacerbate inequities in the admissions process, limiting opportunities for students from lower-income and first-generation families who may require more time and financial aid considerations.

Moving Towards Fairness and Reform

The prevalence of these preference programs has created a system that undermines fairness, equal opportunity, and meritocracy. Together and apart, these practices disproportionately favor the privileged, perpetuating socioeconomic disparities and hindering social mobility for talented individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

As colleges receive funds from the federal government and are expected to uphold fairness in their admissions processes, it is imperative to address these issues.

This is why I partnered with State Representative Simon Cataldo in filing H.3760/SD.2670 which will eliminate these preference programs, which perpetuate inequities and distorts the admissions process. By prioritizing merit-based admissions that evaluate an applicant's qualifications and achievements rather than their family connections or financial contributions, we can create a more equitable and inclusive higher education system that benefits all the middle class and working-class students of the First Essex District and the Commonwealth.

If you have any questions or comments about this bill or there is something my office can assist you with do not hesitate to contact me at Pavel.Payano@masenate.gov.

Property Sales, Foreclosures for APRIL, 2023 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Ann C & Charles L Smith Trs & Smith 2018 Funding Trust, Caro-Mehta Family Trust & Sharda Mehta Tr & Fermin Caro Del Castillo Tr, $2,600,000, 7 Porter Rd

Atindra C & Manjulima Barua, Kathryn S & Bradley W Langhorst, $2,170,000, 11 Meadow View Ln

First Tee Realty LLC, DRR LLC, $1,869,000, 80 Carmel Rd

Qian Xu Tr & Lovebaby Trust, Benjamin Hutchins Tr & Benjamin Hutchins Revocable Trust & Cassandra Hutchins Tr & Cassandra Hutchins Revocable Trust, $1,750,000, 11 Ashford Ln

Simon Khagi & Irene Oberman Khagi, Daniel Lee Lin & Melody Ko Lin, $1,675,000, 14 Pipers Glen

Delanie D Sawyer Tr & Sawyer Family Trust & Edward G Sawyer III & Bonnie G Sawyer, Anil Kumar Bhandari & Mala Chaurasia, $1,612,500, 2 Hay Bale Rd

John C & Cheryl A Kalantzakos, Daniel John & Chelsea Lang, $1,600,000, 10 Devonshire Pl

Stephen O & Mitsi M O'Connell, Joseph C & Lindsay S Zappala Trs & Zappala Revocable Trust, $1,428,000, 6 Robinswood Way

Cyril & Mary M Buckley, Adam & Katherine Rabalski, $1,425,000, 14 Wolcott Ave

James B Purtell Tr & James B Purtell Family Investment Trust, Justin & Kathryn Bastinelli, $1,377,500, 6 Matthew St

Elissa B & Keith W Iwanicki, Lindsay M & Brett J Sullivan, $1,295,000, 23 Strawberry Hill Rd

Robin C Youngman Tr & Robin C Youngman Revocable Trust-2005, John & Colleen Farley, $1,267,000, 15 Apache Ave

Ellen M Gravallese Tr & David Gravallese Tr & Peter Gravallese Tr & Sunset Rock Realty Trust, 39 Sunset Rock Road LLC, $1,250,000, 39 Sunset Rock Rd

Jason Feinberg, Joseph D Hwang & Lisa E An, $1,237,500, 206 Shawsheen Rd

Karl B Geffken Tr & Elaine D Geffken Tr & Geffken Family Trust, Kunal R Goradia & Isha A Sanghvi, $1,185,000, 4 Bittersweet Ln

Damore Family Trust & Paul M & Teresa Damore Trs, Benjamin Zemlin & Allison Hardy, $1,160,000, 7 Cheever Cir

Jun Xu & Lin Wang, James G Muller & Brittany D Moriarty, $1,150,000, 6 Garfield Ln West

David L Morton Trust-2012 & David L Morton Tr, Brendan & Lindsey Kelley, $1,140,000, 11 Wethersfield Dr

Gene P & Carolyn A Rainville, Philip J & Alyssa L Griffin, $1,125,000, 4 William St

Cary & Eamon Duane, Samantha Marie Holden & Eric Hartley Holden, $1,105,000, 167 Woburn St

Guoshuai Zhang & Chunlei Wu, Jeffrey & Jessica H Avila, $1,053,000, 7 Winchester Dr

Beth Bellia Vambaco Tr & 212 Greenwood Realty Trust, Arold Bien-Aime & Lissette Taveras, $1,050,000, 212 Greenwood Rd

Robert M & Jennifer A Taylor, Kevin Dunne & Jessica Bardi, $1,050,000, 5 Harold Parker Rd

Robert J & Mary L Gold, Dan Xle & Li Luo, $1,030,000, 76 Dascomb Rd

James A Ball & Eileen Maxcy, Karla J MacKenzie Tr & Karla J MacKenzie Living Trust, $1,001,000, 6 Brentwood Cir

Gerard M & Karen Szarek Trs & 10 Larchmont Circle Realty Trust, Benjamin & Allison Savage, $986,000, 10 Larchmont Cir

Francis J & Jennifer P MacDonald, Harun El Masri & Abeer Aldwaik, $960,000, 8 Garfield Ln West

Arvind Jayakar & Vijayalakshmi, Jamie Allen & Maggie Chun-Allen, $950,000, 18 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 9

Gregory A Lewis, Daniel Buonopane, $925,000, 272 Highland Rd

Johnson Revocable Living Trust & Mark Andrew Johnson Tr & Michele Marie Johnson Tr, Andrew Mill & Donna J Hanifah-Mill, $879,000, 86 High Plain Rd

Kathryn W Comstock Tr & RHC Realty Trust, Zachary J Ciampa & Quincy A Jessep, $850,000, 8 Random Ln

Litton-Brundage Realty Trust & Elliott M Brundage Tr & Melissa L Litton Tr, Alan N Medeiros & Lauren N Gendreau, $825,000, 190 High Plain Rd

Jay T Fisher, Caitlin Ameral, $821,000, 84 Summer St

Susan L Neff Tr & Donald F Pereira Jr Tr & Pereira One Family Trust, Lori Lynne Fitzpatrick & Francis McCarthy Fitzpatrick, $787,000, 11 Donna Rd

Jennifer DiFrancesco Revocable Trust of 2014 & Jennifer DiFrancesco Ind/Tr, Rafael Rodriguez Jr, $730,000, 177 High Plain Rd

Ashley Bamford Fisher Tr & James Bamford Nominee Realty Trust, Grace M & John R Blake, $701,000, 300 Salem St

Francis M & Lori L Fitzpatrick, Louis & Lisa Demaria, $689,000, 24 County Rd

Myco Build LLC, Ryan Hickey & Chanel Frammartino, $680,000, 94 Greenwood Rd

SSMK LLC, 97 Lovejoy LLC, $675,000, 97 Lovejoy Rd

Arsenault Realty Trust & Rita Arsenault Tr/ Rita T Arsenault Tr, Thomas Z Yang & Jiayi Zhang, $655,000, 9 Ayer St

Michael J & Deborah J Charewicz, Michael Edward Peters Bond, $610,000, 119 Andover St

Qian Xu Tr & Lovebaby Trust, Xuejin & Xuezhen Wang, $526,000, 5 Porter Rd Unit 201

Gregory A Lewis, DMI Rogers Brook East LLC, $525,000, 1 Rogers Brook East

Yie He & Huimin Xu, Bird Dawgz Investments LLC, $500,000, 15 Somerset Dr

Christos & Angelike Rizos Family Trust of 2020 & Nicholas C Rizos Tr, Josephine A Glynn Tr & Glynn Family Revocable Trust, $449,900, 4 Francis Dr Unit 202

Bonnie Michitson & Ina R Carver Est, Sai Builders LLC, $425,000, 21 Washington Ave

Van Doren MA Realty Trust & Laura E Ristau Tr, Derek Franzese, $417,500, 22 Railroad St Unit 313

Douglas J Ahearn & Janet L Mitchell, Colleen Cerullo, $370k, 50 Whittier St Unit 4

Peter M Camplin II, Joshua Clark, $340,000, 10 Maple Ave Unit 2

Emily Jackson & Nicholas Balk, Liziamma Abraham & Varughese Abraham & Tobin G Abraham, $337,450, 34 Summer St Unit C

Deyeung Wong, Chase A Wentworth, $322,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 117

Constitution Properties LLC, Jennifer & Mark Williams, $285,100, B5-9 Colonial Dr

G M C Realty Trust & Judith F Chimenti Tr, Invictus Investments LLC, $270,000, 5 Colonial Dr Unit B5-3

Paul & Melissa Addezio, Robert Elliot Waldinger, $179,000, 10A-4 Colonial Dr Unit 10A-4

LAWRENCE

Wendy Y & Jose A Estrella Trs & AG&J Realty Trust, Javier A Estrella, $950,000, 547, 564 Hampshire St

Jenny Rodriguez & Miguel Rolando Reynoso Bonilla, Israel Rodriguez, $775,000, 225-227 Baily St

Germania Acosta, Doris Concepcion Forchue de Pishardo & Jose L Diaz Forchue, $750,000, 899-901 Essex St

Luisana Lizardo, Sari Vilorio & Ramon Vilorio & Adelaida Vilorio, $685,000, 11 William St

Appleton Grove LLC, Luis & Marjorie Ortez & Josefa Cartagena, $680,000, 199 Howard St

Glendy Rivera & Julia Rivera, Angel Alberto Del Villar & Randel Altagracia Morillo Martinez & Nayadethet Randelina Rodriguez Morillo, $675,000, 93-95 Farley St

Lawrence Development Group, Igreja Lagoinha Boston, $650,000, 126 Franklin St, 364 Haverhill St

Viciel De La Cruz Salazar & Maritza Salazar, Judith D Vargas De Pena & Wilber Jose Pena & Wendy Maria Rojas Vargas, $650,000, 156 Garden St

Mary Ann & Donald K Poctor Jr, Francisco A Munoz-Vargas, $615,000, 274 Mount Vernon St

Esteban Gonzalez Cordero & Justina De La Cruz, Jose Ernesto Nieves & Mercedes Javier Nieves, $583,000, 2 Lorenzo Rd

Lisa M & Anthony J Vitale Trs & Lisa M Vitale Revocable Trust, Jose Manuel Batista, $561,000, 14 Thomas Rd

Warren A & Nancy J Kay, Juan A Salazar & Nolberto Fernandez, $560,000, 9 Allyn Ter

Ana Maria Cruz-Burgos & Anny K Burgos, Diana Estela Acevedo & Santana Almonte Acevedo, $550,000, 93 Saunders St

Niurka & Elias Guzman, Ellie & Carlos Colindres, $530,000, 5 Dunstable St

Nelson Batista, Ana E Martinez-Smith, $530,000, 170 Easton St

Bonnie L True & Lawrence James True Est, Kirsy Roberts, $500,000, 55 Congress St

Carol A Andrade Tr & CAA Realty Trust, Elvis Ramon Ulloa Nunez & Yaleidi Altagracia Ulloa & Nayeli Ulloa Jimenez, $485,000, 33 Pembroke Dr

John E & Julie Putis/Julie A Lemieux, Nelisa S Montan De Hernandez & Jose M Hernandez, $455,000, 14 Saxonia Ave

Debra M Page & George Page III Est, Evelyn J Claudio Diaz & Erick A Alfonso Claudio, $450,000, 14 South St

Audrey Viveiros, Veronica Gonzalez Ortega & Ysidro Gonzalez Gonzalez, $430,000, 6 Essex Ave

Nouel J Diaz Pujols & Norys A Garcia, Alejandro Guzman Tavera & Martin A Guzman Acosta, $420,000, 10 Durham St

Cesar Ortiz Payano & Andy J Oritz, Harricely Suarez & Freddy Fernandez, $412,500, 95 William St Unit 1

Robert A Freedman, Vigilant Consulting LLC, $410,000, 589 Haverhill St

Jose D Valdez Jr, Jean Gil & Amalia Rodriguez Vasquez & Julio Rafael Gil Del Rosario, $395,000, 272-274 Water St

Isabel M Pimentel & Maria I Pimental Est, Zoraya M Comez, $390,000, 111 Bunkerhill St

Caras Realty LLC, Jose Grullon Polonia, $365,000, 3 Melrose St

Bunnoeune Ou, Guivens Andre, $350,000, 2A LaSalle Ave

Laird Family Irrevocable Trust II & Alan M Laird Tr, Abraham De Jesus Gomez & Josefa Marmolejos De Gomez, $350,000, 5 Atkinson Ct

Lazaro Canela & Lillian P Montero DeCanela, Angela Sanchez, $327,500, 2C Woodland St Unit 4A

Humm Realty LLC, Valentina Rodriguez & Santos Lopez, $200,000, 270 East Haverhill St Unit 20

JP Family Trust & John T Pappalardo Tr, Chanel Romano & Arelis Arias, $180,000, 272 East Haverhill St Unit 12

Regis Holdings LLC, Rivas Properties LLC, $170,000, 260 East Haverhill St Unit 14

Humm Realty LLC & Humm Realty LLC, Romell Kid & Annette Vicioso-Kidd, $120,000, 270 E Haverhill St Unit 3

METHEUN

Herbert M Turner III & Annette Turnerz, Katty Duran, $975,000, 14 Pine Tree Dr

Victor Manuel Toral Magana & Maria Elsa Romero Duran, Rocco & Cheryl A Scarvaglieri, $895,000, 49 Pine Tree Dr Unit 85

Yessenia L Villanueva, Bernard Goulet, $875,000, 13 Fairways Ln

Francis & Kathleen M McAteer, Kevin S Lewis, $875,000, 4 Highwoods Dr

Toll MA Land III LP, Dingyi Yan & Wei Ji, $867,950, 7 Wren Way Unit 151

Abdo & Samaria Hashem, Dinesh Thapa & Isha Ranjit, $815,000, 3 Margarets Wy

Christiaan Bil Tr/Christiaan A Bil Tr & 247 Hampstead Street Realty Trust & , Ames Hardymon, $810,000, 247 Hampstead St

Mau V Nguyen Tr & MXT Realty Trust, Dalila Melo, $810,000, 217-219 Haverhill St

Toll MA Land III LP, Patricia W & Stephen T Dane, $804,395, 23 Cardinal Rd Unit 170

Mark C & Donna J Sullivan, Jeanne Mickle, $749,900, 3 Hummingbird Wy Unit 4

Tony & Annette Johnsen, Cody G & Christina M Cyr, $735,000, 20 Birute St Ext

117 Druid Hill Realty Trust & Ann Marie Pattavina-Sullivan Tr/Ann Marie Pattavina-Hern Tr, Paul J & Crystal M Nartiff, $725,000, 117 Druid Hill Ave

Abreu Construction Corp Tr & Abreu Construction Realty Trust, Stefanie Ann & Ryan Michael Sypher, $707,000, 77 Riverview Blv

Wendy J Sonnenburg & Joyce Ann Peter Est/Joyce A Peters Est, Diego A Maza Huisha & Maria U Guisha Leon, $690,000, 147-149 Jackson St

Patricia M Ingram Tr & Patricia M Ingram Living Trust, Richard & Sharon Finocchiaro, $690,000, 21 Sherwood Dr Unit 135

Jonathan Vega, Coraly Quiroz & Yuri M Morales Castro, $675,000, 33-35 Bicknell Ave

Peter C Monson Tr & Karen David-Monson Tr & Monson David 2022 Trust, Robert & Terry Dubow, $659,000, 4 Herrick Dr Unit 2

Steven J & Mary E Pitcher, James A & Sandra G Bensson, $655,000, 4 Guilford Ave

Jocelyn M Jhonson, Regino Encarnacion & Carmen Lantigua De Hernandez & Pamela M Hernandez Lantigua, $650,000, 45 Derry Rd

David M Silva, Michelle M & Andrew J Campbell, $650,000, 69 Sherwood Dr Unit 155

Estefania Gomez Tamayo , Rafael Da Silva Pacheco, $640,000, 11 Hideaway Ln

Kirstie & Thomas Doyle, Jorge L Orsini & Heleniza Velez, $610,000, 5 Currier St

Maureen M Couillard Tr & Maureen M Couillard Trust & Richard R Couillard Sr, Emanuel & Maria Ramos, $605,000, 3 Dunrobin Cir Unit 28

Christine S Albert Tr & Smeriglio Family Irrevocable Tr, Jonathan Ryan & Meghan Murphy, $600,000, 127 North St

Caryn B Stiles/Caryn Picarillo, Kimberly M Hadfield & Robert Matthew Allgood Hadfield, $600,000, 11 Vista Cir

Sarith Lork & Katherine A Mercado-Lork, Luis Fernando Lucero Estrada & Karla Regina Marroquin Alfaro, $580,000, 41 Ruskin Ave

Kimberly Westbrook/Kimberly Ann Westbrook, Stephen Harrington & Amanda Bell, $570,000, 3 Hidden Rd

Sean & Samantha L Cormier, Lazaro Canela & Lilliam Montero De Canela, $565,000, 46 Ridge Rd

Matthew P & Rebecca L Terrio/Rebecca L Pommet, Pedro Osvaldo Payes & Walter Noe Payes Galicia, $550,000, 22 Falcon St

Antoine J & Rose K Loreus, Mariela Ferreira & Carlos Ferreira & Ruddy Ferreira & Nelson A Ferreira Mendez , $550,000, 3 Wellington St

Mark J & Sarah E McInnis, Cayman Hardy & Devan Bere, $550,000, 22 Rachel Rd

Elaine Thibeault-Vandette & Mary-Ann Thibeault-Vandette, Janelle M Gordon, $542,000, 69 Benefit St

Robert Lamb & Yolanda Davenport & Stephanie Lamb, Joanne Exilus, $540,000, 24 Brook St

Glynn Family Revocable Trust 2014 & Josephine A Glynn Tr, Patricia Carey, $540,000, 5 Heather Dr Unit 3

57 Salem Street LLC, Fortune Masholo Kalala & Patricia Musasa Kalala, $525,000, 57 Salem St

Cody G & Christina M Cyr/Christina Piantigini, Sebastian Davila & Taylor Florence, $525,000, 55 Harvard Ave

Mark & Angela J Christoffels, Guerdrose Dieulane Jean Jacques & Jean Ricar Casseus, $520,000, 8 Booth Rd

Earl & Erin Leonard/Erin Murphy, Molly-Kate Carven MacLeod & Christopher William MacLeod, $510,000, 77 Newport St

Shawn P & Carla L Tiernan, Helen Cabbera & Jamie Ortega, $510,000, 9 Woodland Cir

Rami N & Diala Khoury, Benoit Bien-Aime & Fabienne Bontemps Bien-Aime, $500,000, 37 Stevens St Unit 2

Arthur B Riley, Rachel K Guarriello, $450,000, 8 Brook St

Michael Hare, Samantha Hare, $435,000, 62 Maple St

Bryan & Danielle R Genovese/Danielle R Petralia , Jorby Vargas, $431,000, 11 Laurel Ave

Michael Coughlin, Lisa & Tafari R Augustin, $430,000, 93 Hazel St

Derek & Brenda D Sterner, Sara Dymek, $425,000, 45 Washington St Unit 24

Kenneth R Greenwood Jr Tr & Barbara E Greenwood Revocable Trust, Carlos Da Silva, $420,000, 10 Grove St

Solanlly Arias & Kelvin Nunez Delgado, Christopher Tinney, $415,000, 11 Fulton St

David Deshaies , Alicia & Jacob Mulcahy, $400,000, 302 Howe St

Mark W Cordeiro, Joelle Elghoul, $390,000, 45 Washington St Unit C15

Timothy Hatch, Jihad & Emilia Moussa, $387,000, 33-35 Pelham St

Alexander Romero, Alexander Ramirez De Los Santos & Rosa E Ramirez, $382,000, 24 Adelaide Ave Unit 24

William & Julie Doherty, Katy M & Elvin Perez, $380,000, 24 Washington St Unit 2

Dina Latulippe, Carlos Cruz & Josie E McCarthy, $362,121, 20 Washington St Unit 3

Marcia R Myers, Amie N Le, $360,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 9-101

Kathleen A Faust & Mary Louise Cossar Est, Pedro Cueva, $340,000, 1 Gill Ave

Effie V Halaby, Howard Scott Sanborn Jr, $333,000, 13-15 Bentley Cir Unit B

Lori A Houle & Bonnie J Matthews , Marcel A Ducharme, $320,000, 20 Washington St Unit 78

Mariann Appel , Richard Giuffrida Tr & Robert Giuffrida Tr & Jospeh L Giuffrida Tr & Six Zero Two Lowell Street Realty Trust, $290,000, 19 Hampshire Rd Unit 107

Zolgalys Sanchez, Luz Castillo, $290,000, 18E Constitution Way Unit 18E

Nancy Cuticchia Tr & 2 Hastings Circle Realty Trust, Gardenia Brea, $273,300, 2 Hastings Cir Unit 89

David J Perillo, Joseph D Fisichelli & Christine R Maxim, $230,000, 177B Pleasant Valley St Unit B

Five C Construction LLC, Greater Lawrnce Revolving Loan Fund Inc, $226,500, 5 Frost Ave

Andrea & John Nicholson/John M Nicholson, John A Nicholson, $200,000, 30 Dracut St

Marc A & Debra C Bergeron, Marc A Bergeron, $50,000, 367 Howe St

Julia C Lavoie, Jonathan Pierce, $40,000, 18 Erhardt Ter

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Paul E & Beth H Drew, Mark Lapre & Elizabeth Carlisle Lapre, $1,615,000, 230 Webster Woods

Michele A & Vincent J Giovenelli III , Francis & Min Nagle, $1,376,000, 1789 Great Pond Rd

Peter K & Kathleen D Bennett, Kevin M & Margaret F Hansberry, $1,370,000, 127 Kara Dr

H J & S LLC & Zhi Gao Li & Andy Wu, Milford Learning LLC, $1,275,000, 1250 Osgood St

James Jospeh Barry & Monica Barry, Christopher Willard Coogan & Margaret Mary Sloan, $1,190,000, 29 Rock Rd

Radu Pasovschi & Julie Kay Rogowski, Rachel W Lindsay & Donal Sheets, $1,160,000, 691 Great Pond Rd

George R Tombarello, Zachary & Shelby Canto, $1,150,000, 28 Foxwood Dr

Devon S Boydstun & Natasha Victoria Boydstun, Thomas & Kathleen Salomone, $1,130,000, 180 Berry St

Maureen F Magaran & Patrick W Hanks, Kristin & James Healy, $1,050,000, 258 Bridges Ln

John L & Ellen L Fotino Trs & John L Fotino & Ellen L Fotino Living Trust, Ana G Posadas & Nelson G Sandoval, $1,050,000, 39 Granville Ln

Alden B & Birgitte M Flanders, Clara N Cabrera Tr & Clara N Cabera Revocable Living Trust, $1,000,000, 145 Weyland Cir

Chaotic Bongos LLC, Olger Guri & Ermal Malaj, $985,000, 3-5 Bixby Ave

Kevin M & Margaret F Hansberry, Kerrie Oshea Fiminai & Joseph Fimiani, $971,444, 29 Colonial Ave

Caroline D & Jose L Ocasio, Kara N & Russell C Tontz III, $969,000, 75 Amberville Rd

Chandra & Usha Prakash, Khalid & Lamiaa Lahrizi Fateh, $930,000, 41 Garnet Cir

Kevin & Amanda Chin/Amanda McKernan , Danielle & Jeanne Dushane & Therese Price, $910,000, 110 Woodcrest Dr

Linda Cahill/Linda M Cahill & Shirley Morton/Shirley M Morton, Shannon M O'Leary & Nicholas R Stevenson, $895,000, 110 Duncan Dr

John D & Nancy S Lennhoff Trs & Lennhoff Family Trust, Colleen M Bordieri & Kirsten Forsberg-Bordieri, $865,000, 675 Forest St

Marilyn Ichton/Marilyn Joyce Ichton, Elias Menhem & Zhanar Tastanova, $825,000, 50 Stonecleave Rd

Paul W Lafond, Sean T Finnegan & Thomas J Finnegan Jr & Carol A Finnegan, $787,500, 16 Tavern Rd

Arthur Martirosov & David Martiroso, V & V Investments LLC, $755,000, 30 Anne Rd

Ralph C & Stacy Strout, Kelsi McNamara, $725,000, 11 Faulkner Rd

Carmeron N & Julianne L Pramas, Daniel M & Amanda Conway, $710,000, 755 Johnson St

Andrew S & Stacey Marie Bowne, Matthew & Marina Derian, $661,000, 625 Turnpike St

Muoi Truong Tr & Thu Truong 2013 Trust, Berkshire Property Buyers LLC, $642,500, 153 Mill Rd

Cheryl Amari, Charles A Savage & Emma G Lewis, $630,000, 87 Buckingham Rd

Bao Tran, Julio Soto Encarnacion & Altagracia Soto Encarnacion & Erick Mendez, $630,000, 56 Beverly St

Virginia A & Richard E Griffin Jr, Danielle H & Renee A Capdeville, $603,000, 56 Glenwood St

Victoria V Vissering, Arthur Martirosov & David Martiroso, $600,000, 30 Anne Rd

GM Flips LLC, Cynthia M & Ralph S Hynes, $575,000, 30 Troy Rd

Betzabet Ascencio, Vania I Aguilar Gonzalez & Erik John McCarthy, $570,000, 19 Commonwealth Ave

Charles T Perocchi Jr Est & Sheila Marie Skane, Jose Luis Vargas & Eva Teresa Ramos Devargas, $525,000, 428 Johnson St

Steven & Amanda Marcucci/Amanda DiMauro, Kevin C Ralston, $486,000, 4 Oak Ave

Jane B McHenry, Nicole Taylor Poe, $476,000, 20 Stacy Dr

Melanie Scanlan, Roy William Chien Tr & Nancy Fan Chien Tr & MCCO Trust , $435,000, 190 Chickering Rd Unit 304D

Peter & Tara Maki, Robert Greco, $435,000, 78 East Water St Unit 78

Darling A Bonilla-Speliotis/ Darling A Bonilla, Kaitlyn & Michael Landry, $430,000, 18 Glenwood St

Mary L Beirne & Nancy L Beirne Tr & Beirne Family 2005 Realty Trust, Ashley L Lucibello, $430,000, 216 Waverly Rd

Ellen C Michaud Family Trust & Ellen C Michaud Tr, Aakash Jethra & Shaline Mutrija-Jethra, $392,000, 148 Main St Unit O-201

Jennifer L Cole, Tonianne Dowgiallo, $350,000, 148 Main St Unit A-413

Gabriella Schreiber, Therese Hickey, $325,000, 1 Harvest Dr Unit 209

Michael S Nichols, Vaibhavkumar Patel, $325,000, 14 Walker Rd Unit 6

Rhonda C Riccardi, Oleg Stamati, $320,000, 88 Edgelawn Ave Unit 88EL-7

Torng Lih Lee, David Andrews, $300,000, 9 Walker Rd Unit 6

Diana Whitney Mamouni , Kaan Karadeniz & Luljeta Bozgo, $280,000, 90 Edgelawn Ave Unit 4

Diane Healy/Diane Haidar, Azad Ibrahim, $250,000, 50 Farrwood Ave Unit 8

David W & Sandra G Herrick Trs & Sandra G Herrick Revocable Trust, Burke Acquisitions LLC, $180,000, 857 Turnpike St Units 134, 136

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

mix of Germans and Eastern Europeans to contain the Russians. James accomplished this without any fluency in the German, or any European language.

He served his two years of required US Military service and was a Corporal or Technician 5th Grade when he was discharged Honorably. The rank of Technician 5th Grade no longer exists, he was addressed as "Corporal", but was paid equivalent to a Sergeant. The rank was used post war for technical specialties such as a CIC Investigator. James was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany clasp and the National Defense Medal.

He recalls the war damage he saw throughout Germany, the German people always staring at him, and an indifference to the events of World War II by most of the German population. After serving his time in the US Army, almost all of it in Europe, James returned home. Eager to use his GI Bill to complete Law school, he enrolled as a second-year student at Suffolk University's Law School.

This young Veteran then spent the next few years working third shift at Merrimack Paper in Lawrence, sleeping, and studying for a few hours, then catching the train into Boston to attend Suffolk Law at night, sprinting to the station after class to catch the last train back to Lawrence to work in the paper mill until morning. Amazing?

In addition to his practice of law in Lawrence for 56 years, he served his community as chief of staff to Mayor Daniel Kiley and later as an assistant clerk in Lawrence District Court. He has served as chair of the board of directors of American Training, Inc. in Andover, MA since its inception many years ago.

One of the most influential public figures in James' life was the famed baseball player who broke the color barrier – Jackie Robinson. James saw him play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In his own life, James personally experienced episodes of discrimination based on his Lebanese heritage. These experiences drove him to serve the less fortunate and to always support the underdogs he met along the way. He often cites Robinson's quote, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

James Hajjar is a Veteran, 60-year Lawrence Lion, a Lawyer, a father, grandfather, and great grandfather, truly a hero in our midst.

The staff of the Valley Patriot thank James's son Todd, (also a lawyer) and fellow attorney Mike Torrisi for their invaluable assistance writing this. A special thanks to Mike's dad, Angelo, and the crew of the US Army Air Corp Bomber "Miss Nadine" for saving the World in 1945!

All the Merrimack Valley's American Legion Posts ask all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, our mission is working with Congress, Veterans, and the Community, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations and serving all Veterans and their families.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 26 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

Stadium Chiropractic

NEW LOCATION! 2 DURSO AVE
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Dr. John Armano is pleased to announce the opening of Stadium Chiropractic PC located at 2 Durso Ave in Lawrence, adjacent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles behind Taco Bell. Dr. John Armano has been serving the Merrimack Valley for the past 31 years specializing in injury rehab sports medicine as well as pain management for acute and chronic conditions. Dr. Cindy Armano has been serving Boston's North shore for the past 31 years also specializing in injury rehab as well as family care and nutritional counseling. PHONE: (508) 350-7036. Se Habla Espanol.

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CLEAR PATH FROM PAGE 13

State Rep Ryan Hamilton said that he is committed to helping Clear Path get funding to help Methuen Veterans in need.

last. We can stretch that. We can use this money for helping a veteran get into rehab, housing, helping with debt and past bills, and getting them into an education or vocational programs.

"People come to us and offer free training and employment for veterans. We have some great partners in that area and of course we need more of that. For example, we have a machine shop in Maynard who is willing to train and hire any veteran we send them for $22 an hour."

State Rep. Ryan Hamilton who represents Methuen and Haverhill said that Clear Path's announcement was perfectly timed.

"This meeting is very timely because someone just asked me, 'what is your biggest complaint about the City of Methuen?' My complaint was, it feels like sometimes that if things aren't getting done by City Hall, people fall through the cracks."

"As far as I'm concerned, one veteran falling through the cracks is one too many. So, I wanted to come stand in front of all of you tonight and tell Randy and Jason that I am committed to help you get any funding that you need. More funding means that means you can hire more people to service more veterans. That means you can build more housing, here in the City of Methuen."

"It's unfortunate that one of our veteran groups in Haverhill is closing down. So, there's going to be an even greater need for our veterans here in the valley. I'm so happy to see Randy and Jason and everyone at Clear Path stepping up and continuing to help."

Councilors Joel Faretra and Eunice Zeigler were also on hand to pledge their support for Clear Path.

Also invited were Methuen Mayor Neil Perry and East District Councilor Steve Saba who did not attend.

To contact Clear Path to help a veteran in need or to for veterans and their families who need help you can call....

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

"The Night Agent"

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

'The Night Agent,' an exciting new political action-thriller, is slick and fun and with an increasing list of action-thrillers on streaming, this is definitely one of the more memorable ones. It is my recommendation for this month.

The series opens with a terrorist attack on the subway. FBI Agent Peter Sutherland (Gabriel Basso) is on the train when he sees someone leave a bag behind and get off. Peter checks the bag and finds a bomb. He leaps into action, pulling the emergency brake on the train and gets as many people off the train as he can before the bomb explodes.

For all of his heroics, Peter is branded a suspect in the bombing and gets demoted to a thankless job in the basement of the White House during the graveyard shift. You see, Peter's father was also an agent and was accused of treason. So, Peter is guilty by association and gets banished to the depths of the White House. His main job is to answer an emergency telephone line designed as a hotline for agents in the field when something very serious has happened. It's only to be used in an absolute emergency when an agent can't reach his handler or fears they may have been compromised. The phone barely ever rings. So, his once promising career has now become this uneventful drag. Until he gets a call that changes all of that.

He gets a phone call from a woman named Rose Larkin (Luciane Buchanan), who was given the number plus a code by her aunt and uncle before they were killed. Turns out that Rose's aunt and uncle weren't the boring suburbanites that she thought they were. They were actually undercover operatives who stumbled onto something big and they fear that their covers have been blown. Rose also says she overheard a conversation about both an upcoming terrorist attack and a mole in the White House.

Peter believes Rose and Diane Farr (Oscar nominee Hong Chau), the president's chief of staff, believes Peter, but Peter's FBI boss (Robert Patrick) isn't so sure. And this all happens in the first episode.

'The Night Agent' with its spectacular action and chase scenes, the twisty plot and the well-portioned pacing, entertains the audience with its fast-paced and exciting story and keeps the attention riveted. The series strives to keep the viewer entertained and keep them watching and guessing, and it accomplishes that feat very well.

Netflix realized that they had an immediate hit on their hands when the series had a huge debut, with about 168.71 million hours viewed within the first few days, and 'The Night Agent' was renewed for a second season less than a week after it was released.

Created by Shawn Ryan (The Shield) and based on the 2012 novel of the same name by Matthew Quirk, 'The Night Agent' is exciting, addicting, and successfully able to balance a storyline that could have easily become over-complicated. With 10 episodes, each clocking in around 45 to 50 minutes, it is definitely a good candidate for your next binge watch.

All 10 episodes are now available to stream on Netflix.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

No Other Options! Nobody Else is Coming!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings and God Bless you all in the Wonderful Name of Jesus Christ! It blows my mind how some people today in 2023 have a cavalier and nonchalant manner when it comes to believing in Jesus Christ, that He is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do.

Jesus Himself said in John 6:48-51, "I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." NKJV. After Jesus spoke of eating his flesh and drinking his blood, many of his disciples said that this was a hard saying and walked with him no more. Then He said the following in John 6:67, "Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" NKJV. Next, we read Peter's response in John 6:68-69, "But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." NKJV.

Sometime later, this same Apostle said of Jesus Christ in Acts 4:11-12, "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." NKJV.

Then the Apostle Paul also said of Jesus Christ in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." NKJV.

You see my friends, there is no other name and no other Savior and no other foundation to stand upon to be saved than Jesus Christ! Everything and everyone else is sinking sand! There is no other option and nobody else is coming!!! So, What or Who, are you waiting for??? The world is getting darker and darker. But for you and your family, there is hope because Jesus Christ did the work that we can not do for ourselves. He paid the penalty in full for our sins, nobody else did this and nobody else is coming to do this in the future. That's why He said on the Cross, "It is Finished!" What was finished? Our Salvation! We read in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." NKJV. Also, we read in Hebrews 10:12, "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God," NKJV. There is no other sacrifice for sins to be made! It is done!

Next, we read in Galatians 1:6-7, "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ." NKJV. There is No Other Gospel!

So, just like in The Book of Acts chapter 2 when Peter finished the first sermon to the Church, the people's response is found in Acts 2:37, "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" NKJV. This was not the time to say see you tomorrow! No, not at all. The Apostle Peter went on to say in Acts 2:38-39, "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." NKJV. That's right Repent! Which simply means to radically change your thinking! At one time you didn't believe in Jesus Christ and that He is who He said He is, but now, you do!

It is never too late! Our family prayed for 30 years for this one family member and after 30 years, he finally invited Jesus Christ into his life! The Promise still holds today! Romans 10:13 states, "For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." NKJV.

Remember, we covered in this Column that there are;

1. No Other Option, No One Else is coming, Jesus alone is the Christ, The Son of the Living God! John 6:67-69
2. There is No Salvation in any other! Acts 4:12
3. There is No Other Savior! Acts 4:12
4. There is No Other Name by which to be saved! Acts 4:12
5. There is No Other Foundation! 1 Corinthians 3:10-11
6. No Other Sacrifice for sins! Hebrews 10:12
7. No Other Gospel!!! Galatians 1:6-7

What are you waiting for?

There are No Other Options and No One Else is Coming!!!

Much Love to You all and God Bless You!

Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July!

Peter Larocque
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Rest in Peace Kathy Sullivan Dube

Mrs. Kathleen "Kathy" Hope (Sullivan) Dube, 67, of Andover passed away on Monday, June 26, 2023, at The Hospice House in Haverhill.

The daughter of the late John and Patricia (Gemmell) Sullivan, she was born in Lawrence on March 29, 1956, and has been an area resident all her life. Mrs. Dube retired from the Lawrence Public Schools where she was a teacher for many years. She was an active member of the teachers' union, The Cycling Sullivans antique bicycles, and loved to spend time with her family and friends. Along with her parents Mrs. Dube is also pre-deceased by her sister Mary Lou Sullivan and brother Steven Sullivan. She is survived by her loving husband of 46 years Richard R. "Rick" Dube of Andover, one daughter Kristin A. Dube of Ashland, MA, one son Richard J. "Chad" Dube and his fiancé Kadra "Kady" Lindmeier of Andover, One grandson Richard D.

"Dominic" Dube, three brothers John Sullivan and his wife Susan of Derry, NH, Timothy Sullivan and his wife Lucinda of Andover, Thomas Sullivan and his wife Penny of Marion, and many nieces and nephews.

"Bye, Love Ya, See Ya!"

Donations may be made in Kathleen's memory to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 or www.dana-farber.org

WILLS & TRUSTS ARE WHAT WE DO!!!

Every day when we walk out the door, there is always the possibility that it may be our "last" time. You wouldn't walk out the door without your wallet; if you fail to plan for your Family's future, that's exactly what you may be doing.

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SUE PIAZZA'S BOOK REVIEW

Warrior King: An Ancient Family Saga

Golden Age Chronicles Book 1
© 2023 by Lauren Lee Merewether
Published by: LLMBooks Publishing
Genre: Historical Fiction
Bookmarkers: 5 of 5

Egypt (Kemet) 1575 BC. is a divided land. Foreign entities control the great delta, the lower region. Various rebellious princes vie for control of the upper region.

Years of struggles and war have forced the men to leave their lives behind in their quest to regain control, especially of the delta, the food basket, the richest environment segment in Kemet. Left behind to procure warriors, financing, allies, etc. are the women. Sister wives. Mothers.

Though the story is written about an obscure line of kings most readers are unfamiliar with, the struggles they encounter are those that people nowadays can relate to. Political intrigue, death, love, family connections. Women, left alone for years at a time, must survive, and thrive.

This is as much a women's story as it is the story of a country's reunification attempts.

Ms. Merewether has a unique grasp on Egypt. Her books are packed with information her research uncovers. We have detailed pages that include Time/Places, Gods, Cast, etc.

A map and a family tree introduce the story. Parents and grandparents of those we know from history (or movies) Amenhotep Ramses, Tutmoses, etc. are the main characters.

A substantial plot twist, that stems from this genetic line, further propels the novel.

"A Look into the Past" at the back of the book, goes into further historical content, as does the extensive bibliography provided. The author's love for both the story and its characters are obvious.

Ms. Merewether also provides a historical review at the end of the book. Here we are informed what is accurate history and what facts the author has taken liberties with.

Ms. Merewether's stories are rich in visuals as well as action. Example: "... the burning flame at the back of her throat incinerated the yell of agony she held there. She swallowed its ashes and blinked back hot tears." or "Hate boiled in his eyes."

Her dialogue befits the characters, their interactions, and the time period the novel details.

The only issue I have with this book is the author's use of pronouns. Instead of using people's names she uses designated pronouns, a lot. But this does not affect the overall read.

This author offers free short stories, prequels, and a host of other material on her website. www.LaurenLeeMerewether.com

I have read and followed Ms. Merewether for several years now and have not been disappointed with her books. Some time periods I enjoy more than others. Her delving into Pre-Christian Egyptian history is my favorite.

I would recommend this author with no reservations.

Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. Book One in her Ongoing Indigenous Tale series is the romance, A Bird Call That Isn't. Find it on Amazon at:

A Bird Call That Isn't https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0829MHLRX
Destiny's Daughter, the second book in the series is at the editors. Expected publication Fall 2023.

Valley Patriot Book Review ◊

Ipswich Lion, Brian Abbott 1937-2023

Brian O. Abbott, 86, husband of the late Madeline F. (Carey) Abbott, died Sunday morning June 25, 2023 in a local nursing home. Born in Ipswich on June 13, 1937 he was the son of the late Charles and Catherine (Otis) Abbott.

Mr. Abbott was raised and educated in Ipswich, he was a graduate of Ipswich High School, Class of 1955.

He served in the Ipswich Lions Club for many years. He enjoyed dancing, golfing and travel. He and his wife Madeline wintered in Naples, FL for over 30 years.

He was often found on a golf course and he was an avid walker. Mr. Abbott was a happy, friendly person who liked everyone he came in contact with. He was predeceased by his wife on August 3, 2013.

Mr. Abbott is survived by his 2 daughters: Beth Malone and her husband Timothy of Beverly, Kimberley Banks and her husband Wayne of Rowley. He is also survived by his 2 grandchildren: Matthew Malone and his wife Jocelyn of Beverly and Corey Malone of New York City and his 2 great-grandchildren: Connor Malone and Lyla Malone. Mr. Abbott is also survived by his brother Charles E. Abbott of Virginia Beach as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was also predeceased by his sister Sandra Duke formerly of Ipswich.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Mr. Abbott's name to: the Ipswich Lions Club P.O. Box 525 Ipswich, MA 01938.

To send a letter of condolence to the Abbott family please go to: MorrisFH.com .

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